



## MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL REPORT OF OUTCOMES - MEETING 9 APRIL 2026

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### Statement of the University's Public Purpose

Macquarie University is established in the public interest by the [Macquarie University Act 1989](#). The object of the University is the promotion, within the limits of the University's resources, of scholarship, research, free inquiry, the interaction of research and teaching, and academic excellence.

### Statement of the Council's Role

As stipulated under part 4 of the [Act](#), the Council acts for and on behalf of the University in exercising the University's functions. It has responsibility for the control and management of the University's affairs and may act in any matter relating to the University in the manner it considers best suited to promoting the University's objects and interests.

### Place, Date and Background to the Meeting

The Macquarie University Council met on 9 April 2026 in the Council Room at the Wallumattagal Campus and addressed matters in accordance with its governance responsibilities and the [annual agenda plan](#).

### Strategic Focus

The April Council meeting had a strategic focus on the **Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences**. Council received a comprehensive presentation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Medicine and Health) and Executive Dean, Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, highlighting recent performance and key achievements aligned to the Faculty's annual priorities under the decadal strategic plan.

Council also considered the **Vice-Chancellor's Strategy and Enterprise Performance report**, a standing item at each Council meeting. The report included updates on the finalisation of ATEC legislation and the commencement of negotiations on mission-based compacts, including enrolment caps; enrolment trends, with domestic load expected to recover through mid-year enrolments, international enrolments tracking below projection, and improved student retention outcomes; the release of the SERD final report, Ambitious Australia; and continued improvements in the University's global ranking performance.

### Keys Matters

#### *Financial Sustainability*

Each April, Council is responsible for approving the audited financial statements for the preceding year. At this meeting, the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee commended the audited financial statements to Council, noting that they had been rigorously reviewed by the

Committee prior to submission.

Council considered the **2025 Financial Statements** and associated attestations as presented and noted advice from the Audit Office of NSW that an unqualified (clean) audit opinion would be issued. Being satisfied with the statements, Council passed a resolution to approve the financial report, comprising the Financial Statements, Notes to the Financial Statements, Responsible Entities Declaration, and Statements of Appointed Officers relating to the financial statements and notes.

### ***Risk Culture***

In fulfilling its responsibilities under the Act, Council considered the **Strategic Risk Register** and approved the revised **Risk Appetite Statement (RAS)**. Council also discussed approaches to strengthening a risk-aware culture across the organisation, including ways to engage the broader University community in strategic risk identification and discussion.

As part of the Academic Senate report to Council, Council noted the **Academic Risk Profile**. Council also approved a number of amendments to the **Delegations of Authority Register**.

### ***Education Standards***

Council considered a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on Macquarie's **2024 Student Experience Survey (SES) results**, including an overview of how SES data is used to inform institutional decision-making and strategic priorities. Council discussed and noted the report, with particular attention to opportunities to enhance analytical depth, improve transparency in communicating SES findings, and maintain a forward-looking focus on the student experience.

### ***Research Standards***

Council noted the 2025 annual report on research integrity, together with the Quality and Standards Compliance Reports for HESF Domain 4 (Research and Research Training) and the ESOS National Code. Council noted that these reports had been considered by the Academic Senate before being submitted to Council for assurance purposes.

### ***University Culture***

Council noted the **Australian University Census Report on Staff Wellbeing**, noting that a more substantive discussion on organisational culture would be held at the June Council meeting.

**Health and safety reporting** is a standing item at most Council meetings. At this meeting, Council considered and noted the most recent health and safety report, including the introduction of anonymous reporting for psychosocial hazards. Council noted that the impact of this initiative on reporting trends will be monitored over time.

Council also noted the University's submission to TEQSA on **Statement of Regulatory Expectations: Compliance with workplace obligations**. The submission set out the key actions taken by the University to identify and address potential risks related to obligations under workplace laws.

Council noted that a draft **Campus Policy** has been developed to outline the University's commitment to providing a safe and well-functioning environment for members of its community. The Policy consolidates relevant obligations from other policies, describes

University decision-making for the lawful use of its land and introduces new requirements for protests and camping.

## **Governing Body Matters and Performance**

### ***Election of Deputy Chancellor***

In accordance with clauses 19–20 of the *Macquarie University By-law 2005*, Council resolved to elect Ms Lyn Cobley as Deputy Chancellor for a two-year term, effective from 1 July 2026. Lyn will replace Louise Mason, whose Deputy Chancellor term of office concludes on 30 June.

### ***External Reporting***

Council approved the **2025 Annual Report**. The report incorporates enhanced transparency measures designed to ensure the University's full alignment with the Expert Council on University Governance (ECUG) Principles. This includes reporting on reviews of the Governing body, attendance at Council and Council Committee meetings, publishing a skills matrix of Council members, and a disaggregation of consultancy spend in the financials.

## **Other Matters**

### ***Emeritus Professors***

Council approved the awarding of the title of Professor Emeritus to one Professor.

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## **Disclaimer**

This report provides an overview for the University community of the Council's decisions and actions at the relevant meeting. It is not intended to cover every decision made at the meeting or the full details of decisions and discussions. Inquiries and requests for further information can be directed to the University Council Secretary at [councilsecretary@mq.edu.au](mailto:councilsecretary@mq.edu.au).

## **Further Information**

For further information about Council, please see:

[Charter of Council](#)

[Current Macquarie University Council Members](#)

[Committees of Council](#)

[2026 Calendar of Governance](#)