



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL REPORT OF OUTCOMES - MEETING 11 JUNE 2026

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 11 June 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 June Council meeting had a strategic focus on the **Faculty of Arts** and on **Student Recruitment, Marketing and Communications**.

Council received a comprehensive presentation from the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, highlighting recent performance and key achievements aligned with the Faculty's annual priorities. Council also noted the feedback process and the revisions made to the initial proposals as part of the **Faculty of Arts Change Management** process. Council thanked the Faculty, through the Executive Dean, for their substantial efforts and contributions during a significant period of change.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (People and Operations) also presented on recruitment, marketing and communications strategies. Council's discussion covered early offer approaches, the challenges of growing in a constrained or capped environment, international student recruitment trends, and the new "earned media" strategy, which is proving effective in positioning Macquarie as an authoritative voice on current societal issues.

Council also considered the **Vice-Chancellor's Strategy and Enterprise Performance Report**, a standing item at each meeting. This report included updates on the evolving Federal policy environment and progress towards finalising the Mission-Based Compact,

including agreed enrolment targets and associated KPIs to be negotiated with the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC).

Keys Matters

Financial Sustainability

At each meeting, Council receives a report from the Finance and Facilities Committee. At this meeting, Council received the report from the Committee's 19 May 2026 meeting, presented by the Chair. Council also approved a **Central Treasury Agreement**, a straightforward arrangement designed to support a more centralised approach to managing the investments of the University's controlled entities: MQ Health Pty Limited, U@MQ Ltd, Macquarie University Services Limited, and Access Macquarie Limited.

Risk Culture

At each meeting, Council receives a report from the Audit and Risk Committee. At this meeting, Council received a report from the 28 May 2026 Audit and Risk Committee meeting. As part of the report, Council was provided with a half yearly update on disclosures of **Gender Based Violence (GBV)**.

Council also approved the **2025 Modern Slavery Statement**, a mandatory annual report under the Modern Slavery Act that requires large organisations such as the University to publicly disclose how they identify and mitigate risks of modern slavery.

Education Standards

Council considered a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on consultation undertaken in developing the **Macquarie University Degree**, which has emerged from a three-year process involving extensive community engagement. Consultation is continuing, with the Curriculum Architecture Policy currently on the Policy Bulletin Board for University-wide review. Subject to that consultation, it is anticipated that Senate approval will be considered at the August meeting, then for noting at Council.

In accordance with its standard processes, Council also received a report from the Chair of Academic Senate on matters considered at its March meeting. These included the annual report on **Student Appeals and Complaints**, which provides valuable insights into systemic issues experienced by students and informs improvement actions. Council also discussed the impact of artificial intelligence on assessment in the context of the **Annual Report on Academic Integrity and Conduct**.

University Culture

Council noted a report on **Organisational Culture** presented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, People and Operations. The report outlined a proposed listening framework to be implemented in the second half of 2026. Council will receive the outcome of this strategy at its October meeting.

Council also held a discussion on a proposed **commitment on all racism, including antisemitism**. When finalised, this will constitute the University's response to Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism's *University Report Card Sectoral Assessment*, released earlier in the month. A revised commitment statement will be provided to Council for consideration/approval at the August 2026 meeting.

Governing Body Matters and Performance

Appointment of Pro-Chancellor

Council resolved to appoint **Ms Louise Mason** as Pro Chancellor for a two-year term, effective from 11 June 2026.

Re-Appointments to Council and Audit and Risk Committee

Council approved the reappointment of **Ms Lyn Cobley AM** for a second term on Council as a Graduate Member under Section 8 E of the Macquarie University Act; and approved the extension of **Emerita Professor Mary Chiarella AM's** term on the Audit and Risk Committee to align with her four-year term on Council.

Terms of Reference

Council approved some minor amendments to the terms of reference of the **Nominations and Remuneration Committee (NRC)**, which have been made to bring closer alignment with the recommendations of the *Expert Panel on University Governance (ECUG)* Governance Principles.

Skills Matrix

Council noted the revised Council and Council Committee Skills Matrix, as approved by the NRC. The matrix, which had already been assessed against the ECUG principles and the Ministerial Council statement of April 2024, has been refined to reflect a broader interpretation of skills, expanding beyond skills often associated with business experience to recognise that requisite skills can be developed in a wider range of enterprises and organisations.

Other Matters

Emeritus Professors

In accordance with the *Professor Emerita Emeritus Policy*, Council approved the awarding of the title of Professor Emeritus to three professors.

Posthumous Award

In accordance with the *Aegrotat and Posthumous Awards Policy*, Council approved a posthumous Doctor of Philosophy.

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.

Further Information

For further information about Council, please see:

[Charter of Council](#)

[Current Macquarie University Council Members](#)

Committees of Council

2026 Calendar of Governance