

COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE

MARCH 2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council extended a special welcome to our new Council member Professor Peter Coaldrake AO. Peter brings a wealth of higher education sector experience to the Council role, having previously served as Commissioner of TEQSA and as Vice-Chancellor of Queensland University of Technology for 14 years.

It was noted that this was a Special meeting of Council, which was followed by a Strategic Workshop. The meetings were held in the new Gosford Central campus building.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Council discussed safety shares and the importance of subcontractor induction for safety on University sites.

ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENTS

The Annual Assurance Statements for the University and its controlled entities (NUsport, TUNRA, NUservices and NAIHE) were presented.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A representative from the NSW Audit Office joined the meeting as the annual audited financial statements were presented and approved.

Q4 2025 LOOKING AHEAD PERFORMANCE REPORT

Mr Joel Palmer, Director Strategy, Planning & Performance, presented the Q4 2025 Performance Report.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM STAFF

The Council engaged in a constructive discussion on workplace culture and workload issues that had been raised in correspondence from staff and also noted the role played by elected Council members in bringing issues forward for attention. The Council also discussed the actions to be taken by the Vice-Chancellor and the processes for ongoing communication and direct Council engagement with staff.

STRATEGIC WORKSHOP

The Council was joined by the University's Executive leaders in a strategic workshop during the afternoon. The workshop was facilitated by Mr Joel Palmer.

The workshop included sessions on:

- The University's future size and shape
- Progress on the University's supporting plans (underpinning the new Strategic Plan)
 - o Research Plan – Professor Todd
 - o Education Plan – Professor Tynan
 - o Engagement Plan – Mr Towney
- The Director of Risk Services, Ms Virginia McKay, joined the Council to facilitate a session on the Enterprise Risk Framework.

NEXT MEETING

The next full meeting of Council will be held on 1 May 2026 at Callaghan campus.

CONTACT: Mr Hamish Lithgow, Acting University Secretary