QUT Council Report

QUT COUNCIL REPORT OF OUTCOMES – 27 AUGUST 2026

QUT Council (Council) is established in the public interest by the *Queensland University of Technology Act 1998* (Qld) to deliver high-quality education and research for the benefit of the community (*aligned to Threshold Standard 6.1.1*).

Council is the governing body of QUT (Queensland University of Technology or QUT or University) and actively oversees the University's strategy, performance, risk management, culture, and compliance consistent with its purpose and in the public interest (*aligned to Principles 4.1a and 4.1b,* and *Threshold Standard 6.5.1*).

Council met on 27 August 2026 via web conferencing and at the Gardens Point Campus, and considered, noted, endorsed, or approved the following items (*aligned to Threshold Standard 6.8.3i*).

Statements of alignment with the Principles provided in the *Final Report and Principles | Expert Council on University Governance* (ECUG) are contained in the Report and will inform the annual Principles Compliance Assessment. The *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021* (HES Framework or Threshold Standards) was amended in July 2026, in part, to give effect to the ECUG. Statements of alignment with the Threshold Standards provided in the amended HES Framework are contained in the Report and will inform the annual Institutional Quality Self Check process.

COUNCIL MATTERS

Latest disclosed interests for Council
Aligned to Principle 2.4b and Threshold Standard 6.1.3b
Council noted the latest report of disclosed interests.

Business arising
Aligned to Threshold Standards 2.1.3 and 6.2.1f
Council discussed the correspondence to Council relating to the Kelvin Grove pool closure.

The Vice-Chancellor (VC) re-stated for Council the key facts relating to the decision to close the QUT Kelvin Grove swimming pool, including advising that:

- The pool ran at a financial loss of approximately $600k per year;
- It is only accessed by approximately 65 swimmers with under ten per cent utilised by QUT students;
- It has previously leaked and the positioning above a carpark is problematic;
- The ability to heat the pool at a sufficient level to enable it to be used for children's Learn to Swim programs is also problematic and would be expensive; and
- The intention is to re-purpose the Kelvin Grove swimming pool as learning and teaching space for Faculty of Health students, particularly exercise science students, and to enable on site work integrated learning (WIL) opportunities.

Council noted that the VC had participated in media interviews and the feedback received was that the rationale for closing the QUT Kelvin Grove swimming pool seemed sensible.

Council further noted the nearby public pools that remain open.

Council noted that there were no conditions attached to the philanthropic donation that supported the development of health clinics and a physical activities centre at the Kelvin Grove Urban Village, according to Council minutes at that time.

Council re-affirmed the decision to close the QUT Kelvin Grove swimming pool on 1 September 2026. Council requested the VC respond to the small group of community swimmers who have raised concerns, re-stating the reasons for the closure and communicating Council's re-affirmation of the decision, and inviting them to submit the petition to the gym reception.

Chair's report and Chancellor's report to Council – August 2026
Aligned to Principle 1.3d
As this was her last meeting as Deputy Chancellor, Ms Sherry, Chancellor, thanked Adj Prof Rix for her term as Deputy Chancellor, which will conclude on 20 October 2026, noting that her contributions as Deputy Chancellor had been invaluable.

Ms Sherry advised that there was a recent meeting to discuss the amalgamation of the University Chancellors Council (UCC) and Universities Australia (UA), providing unity and one voice to advocate for the sector. QUT was the first university to host the recent UCC dinner and plenary, which received positive feedback.

Council noted the Chancellor's report to Council – August 2026.

Vice-Chancellor report to Council – August 2026
Aligned to Principle 1.4d
Council considered the 'Vice-Chancellor report to Council – August 2026', which is available at the following address: Reports to Council - QUT Digital Workplace (QUT staff access only).

Report from University Academic Board (UAB) on academic governance activities
Aligned to Principles 3.2b and 3.2d, and Threshold Standards 6.2.1g, 6.3.1d, and 6.3.2h
In particular, Council noted the outcomes of the strategic academic discussion, which focused on reimagining QUT in 2026 in line with the new strategy and associated accelerators.

Council noted the key matters actioned by UAB at its 28 July 2026 meeting provided in the report.

Reports from other Council committees
Aligned to Principle 1.2
Council noted the reports from Risk and Audit Committee (RAC), Finance and Planning Committee (FPC), Governance, Nominations and Remuneration Committee, and Indigenous Australian Committee (IAC).

PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY

2025 Workforce Report – *Confidential*
Aligned to Principle 8.1 and Threshold Standard 6.12.1ii
Council noted the findings of the 2025 Workforce Report, including the suggestions to include in the workforce benchmarking profile, full-time equivalent metrics comparable to the other benchmarked institutions, and a summary of the metrics presented in future reports. Council further noted that in accordance with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) results, QUT recorded an average total remuneration gender pay gap of 6.1 per cent and an average base salary gender pay gap of 4.7 per cent, both of which are the lowest among the universities in the industry comparison group.

Student Experience Survey (SES) 2025 – QUT Only Insights
Aligned to Principle 3.2b and Threshold Standards 5.3.5, 6.3.2e, and 6.10.1
Council noted the update on the SES 2025 QUT only results.

WGEA – Gender Pay Gap 2024-25
Aligned to Principle 8.1 and Threshold Standard 6.12.1ii
Council noted the QUT 2024-25 gender pay gap results, including how QUT compares to other Australian organisations and universities against WGEA reporting requirements.

Annual Course Performance Report 2026: Extract and analysis
Aligned to Principle 3.2b and Threshold Standard 6.3.2e
Council noted the extract and analysis of the Annual Course Performance Report 2026.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Engagement Strategy 2026-2032
Aligned to Principles 6.1d and 6.1e, and Threshold Standards 6.2.1h and 6.10.3
Council noted the Engagement Strategy 2026-2032, which is the first of a suite of documents being developed together and reflects four commitments – Reputation Ready; Audience Ready; Partnerships Ready; and Games Ready. A commitment to Indigenous Australians forms a foundation to each of the four areas.

New marketing brand and campaign approach
Council noted the new marketing brand and campaign approach, which focused on stories from undergraduate and postgraduate students, building on the real-world brand proposition.

QUT Health Facility business case - *Confidential*
Aligned to Principles 4.2b and 7.1c, and Threshold Standard 6.11.1
Council provided conditional approval for the QUT Health Facility business case and noted the update on the QUT Health Facility program. Council noted that the project risks had been considered by RAC and the business case was considered in detail by FPC at its last meeting.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Financial Update
Aligned to Principle 7.1c and Threshold Standard 6.2.1d-e
Council noted the University's most recent year-to-date financial performance.

Investment and Borrowings Performance Report
Aligned to Principle 7.1c and Threshold Standard 6.2.1d-e
Council noted the investment and borrowings performance for the period ended 30 June 2026.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

For Information – Enforceable Undertaking with the Fair Work Ombudsman
Aligned to Principles 6.1a, 7.1c, 8.1a, and 8.2c-d, and Threshold Standards 6.11.1 and 6.12.1ii
Council noted the progress of QUT's compliance with the Enforceable Undertaking and that no further contraventions, or potential contraventions, of the Fair Work Act (other relevant legislation) and Enterprise Agreements have been identified.

QUT Gender Equality and Gender-based Violence Outcomes Framework Half Year Progress Report 2026
Aligned to Principle 7.1c and Threshold Standard 6.11.1
Council noted the progress against the Outcomes Framework, including gender-based violence matters that have arisen in the first half of 2026.

***Confidential* item (Re-election of the Chancellor)**
Aligned to Principles 1.3a-d and Threshold Standard 6.6.1
In accordance with the *Queensland University of Technology Act 1998* (Qld) and Council Procedure 3 – Election of Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor, Council approved the re-election of Ms Ann Sherry AO as QUT Chancellor for a period of five years commencing 24 August 2027 to 23 August 2032.

Risk and Audit Committee Annual Composition Report
Aligned to Principle 7.1f and Threshold Standard 6.5.3
Council noted the annual composition report as at June 2025.

Award of title of Doctor of the University
Aligned to Threshold Standards 1.5.9 and 1.5.11
Subject to their willingness to accept the award, Council approved a number of awards of Doctor of the University to be conferred for distinguished service to QUT, scholarship, and the community.

OTHER MATTERS
Council also considered:
- Annual Health, Safety and Environment and Workers' Compensation Report 2025 – *Confidential*
- Correspondence to Council relating to the Kelvin Grove pool closure (discussed as part of Business arising)
- Executive approval: Update to policy instruments for Indigenous Australian Committee changes
- Executive approval: Minor amendment to the Intellectual Property Policy
- Post meeting action sheet – 25 June 2026
- Council annual work plan and items pending.

DISCLAIMER

Aligned to Principle 4.2a and Threshold Standard 6.8.3i

This Report is intended to communicate key outcomes from the meeting, not to be an official record of the meeting. It does not cover all matters discussed or the full detail of decisions or discussions. While the decisions of Council are crucial, there are sometimes legal and commercial reasons for maintaining confidentiality.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Aligned to Principles 1.1a-d, 2.4a, and 5.1a

The *QUT Council Charter* is published in the Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) and sets out Council's responsibilities in alignment with its purpose to provide proper, effective, and prudent governance and oversight of the University's functions. The members of Council are listed on the corporate web site. To support its members in fulfilling their roles, Council also maintains the *QUT Council Charter and Code* (QUT staff access only).