CQUniversity Council Report

The Council of Central Queensland University is the University's governing body. Council's functions, powers, and membership are prescribed in the *Central Queensland University Act 1998* (Qld). Council is responsible for appointing and overseeing the Vice-Chancellor and President, setting the University's strategic direction, adopting its budget and approving its operational plan.

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which it gathers. Council pays their respects to the First Nations people and their Elders, past, present, and emerging, honouring their wisdom, leadership and the cultural traditions they uphold.

Report from the Meeting held 2 July 2026

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council noted the Vice-Chancellor's report, which included updates on the new Cairns campus development, the Rockhampton Campus Consolidation project, the potential sale of the Biloela campus, and updates on the Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Plan and the University Report Card on Antisemitism.

The University has improved its position in the QS World University Rankings by 63 places, rising from 499th to 436th globally. The ranking improvement reflects the University's long-term focus on delivering high-quality teaching, research, student experience, and student success, and demonstrates that not only is the University performing strongly, but that it is improving relative to other universities globally in an increasingly competitive Higher Education environment.

Professor Sean Sands will commence as Dean of the School of Business and Law on 13 July, bringing extensive leadership experience from Swinburne University, where he served as Professor of Marketing and Associate Dean (Research) for the School of Business, Law, and Entrepreneurship. Council formally expressed their appreciation to Professor Stephen Colbran for his leadership and strong performance while Acting Dean during the transition period.

FINANCE MATTERS

Council discussed the Wage Integrity Review Progress Report for the period 4 October 2025 to 29 May 2026. As of 29 May, $1.357m has been remediated to past and present employees, with the number of identified remediations not shifting significantly in more recent times. Regular updates are still being provided to the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman.

Council discussed the Financial Management Report for the month ended 31 May 2026 and noted the Financial Management Presentation for the month ended 30 April 2026.

ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Council discussed the Academic Integrity Breach Report for Term 2 2025 which monitors trends in academic integrity breaches and identifies emerging issues across the institution. Compared with the previous year, Term 2 2025 recorded a slight reduction in academic integrity cases, which was viewed positively. The reduction may be attributable to factors such as improved student training and awareness, changes in reporting practices, or differences in the identification of breaches.

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) registration renewal was discussed. The University submitted its application for TEQSA registration renewal on 10 April 2025. On 29 May 2026, TEQSA notified the University of its decision to renew the University's registration for a period of seven years, with no conditions

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imposed, from 13 May 2026 to 12 May 2033. Council discussed the recommendations for improvement made by TEQSA and the action plan to be developed to address these recommendations.

The updated Central Queensland University Action Plan for the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) Re-registration and the ASQA, CRICOS and TEQSA Regulatory Update for March and April 2026 were also noted.

AUDIT AND RISK MATTERS

Council approved the Annual Review of the Risk Appetite Statement. Significant work has been undertaken to strengthen the University's risk governance framework and the Risk Appetite Statement. The University maintains an overall moderate risk appetite, reflecting a balanced approach between pursuing opportunities and managing risk exposure. Risks in the risk register that are sitting above tolerance do not necessarily indicate the current risk appetite settings are inappropriate, but rather reflect external pressures, including regulatory requirements, workforce constraints, cyber threats, and broader sector challenges

Council accepted the Compliance Obligations Annual Certification. Council considered the breaches reported during this period and how they were rectified.

Council discussed the updated Occupational Health and Safety Report for the January to March 2026 period. The report included incident statistics, emerging trends and the support available to students and staff. The Safety and Wellbeing team continue to focus on reducing the number of incidents across the University.

Council noted the PT CQU Executive Business Training Centre Liquidation Risk Register for May 2026 and the 2026 Internal Audit Annual Statements. The Internal Audit Reports for Student Accessibility and Equity and the Indigenous Student Success Program Annual Acquittal Report were also noted.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROJECTS MATTERS

Council approved the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2025 – 2028 Progress Report for January to March 2026. The report confirmed 90 applicable deliverables are on track, 21 have been completed, and nine are behind schedule. A key area of focus was the uptake of cultural capability training, which has contributed to some deliverables not progressing as planned. Additional strategies have been implemented to address this and, in the lead up to NAIDOC Week, communications were distributed by Associate Vice-Presidents encouraging participation in events and activities.

Council discussed the Capital Projects Overview Report. Key highlights of the report included the finalisation of the North Rockhampton campus fire main project, the Cairns campus development, and the management of the jetty at the Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre to determine whether rectification work is required.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

The focus item for the meeting was a session on Council's use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Council was presented with a set of principles for consideration, with a focus on ensuring that AI supports, rather than replaces, the responsibilities of Council members. It was emphasised that the use of AI does not diminish members' obligations to exercise independent judgement, undertake critical review, question management where appropriate, and make informed decisions. Council members should apply critical assessment to any AI-generated outputs.

Council addressed the University Report Card on Antisemitism. Australian universities were required to submit information outlining how their policies, procedures, and practices address antisemitism. Universities initially expected to receive individual report cards assessing their performance. Instead, the sector was advised that all universities were considered to have more work to do and were given until 31 August to strengthen their responses. The key recommendations were that universities should have a formal statement on antisemitism at the highest level of institutional governance and that a formal definition of antisemitism should be adopted.

Council endorsed the University's continued adoption of the full Universities Australia Antisemitism Definition and approved the proposed Position Statement on Antisemitism. The ongoing development of an action plan to embed the Position Statement and the Universities Australia Antisemitism Definition through relevant University policies, procedures, guidance, training, and reporting mechanisms was noted.

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Council also determined the re-elected Deputy Chancellor, Ms Shelia Houston, would serve for a term of office commencing on 1 July 2026 and concluding on 31 August 2029.

STUDENT MATTERS

Council noted the minutes of the Student Representative Council (SRC) meetings held on 8 April 2026 and 7 May 2026.

Council noted the process to be followed to conduct an election for the position of Student Member of Council, with Ms Sahisa Sunuwar's term on Council soon to conclude with the conferral of her degree. Ms Sunuwar's strong commitment and valuable contribution in her role as Student Member was acknowledged. In collaboration with the Student Success team, she has worked diligently over the past 18 months to strengthen engagement and collaboration between Council and the SRC.

Disclaimer
This report is intended to communicate key outcomes from the meeting. This is not an official record of the meeting. This report does not cover matters where confidentiality is required for legal or commercial reasons.

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