



OUTCOMES FROM DEAKIN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING 2, 2022 – 20 MAY

Deakin University Council met on 20 May 2022 at the Warrnambool Campus and dealt with matters as follows in accordance with its legislative responsibilities and 2022 business schedule.

Setting the strategic direction of the University

Council considered a report from the Vice-Chancellor covering the status of current matters including:

- the Trailblazer research funding program
- transport upgrades for the Burwood Campus
- results of the recent Deakin Staff Pulse Survey
- campus reactivation
- student recruitment
- National Student Safety Survey.

Council congratulated the University on securing \$50 million in funding in the highly competitive Trailblazer Universities Program, to spearhead the largest recycling and clean energy advanced manufacturing ecosystem in Australia – the Recycling and Renewable Energy Commercialisation Hub (REACH). The government funding will be matched with support from industry and university partners for a total value of \$380 million.

Council noted that the advocacy efforts for improved bus services to the Burwood Campus have been ongoing for a long time. The Vice-Chancellor congratulated all those involved with supporting a persistent push for a better transport experience for Deakin staff and students.

Council considered the results from the staff survey conducted in March 2022, noting that succinct surveys of this type will be conducted each six months. The key measures relate to engagement, enablement, empowerment and leadership.

Council was advised of the comprehensive program in place to discuss results with staff and noted that People and Culture are leading the University response and have actions and plans in place to address areas for improvement and additional effort.

Council noted that Deakin is continuing to take a proactive approach to preventing sexual harm, with a strong foundation of policies, procedures and programs led by Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Tour of the Warrnambool Campus

Council toured parts of the Warrnambool Campus, viewing the student residences and research projects underway including marine hydrography and the Hycel project.

Presentation on the Warrnambool Campus – overview and future directions

Council considered a presentation on the Warrnambool Campus from Grant Sutherland, Chief Executive Officer South West Victoria and Alistair McCosh, Director, Warrnambool Campus, notably:

- a recap of developments over the past five years
- strategy and major initiatives for the Campus now and into the future
- relevant developments, opportunities, challenges and trends in the region.

Council expressed its appreciation to Grant and Alistair for their engaging presentation and for their important role in articulating such a positive vision for the future of the region and University.

Overseeing and reviewing performance of the University

2021 Deakin University Annual Report

Council noted that the 2021 Deakin University Annual Report was tabled in the Victorian parliament on 3 May 2022. The Report is available at the [Deakin website](#).

Overseeing the management and control of finances

Financial report

Council reviewed the Financial Report incorporating Outlook 1 and noted monthly cash flow movements and projections. Council noted that financial performance was in line with budget and full year targets.

Council noted that increasing costs and inflationary pressures with limited ability for Deakin to fully recover through tuition fees, reinforces the need for the University to maintain its focus on financial sustainability.

Major projects

Council considered the Major Projects Report for the period to 31 March 2022 and noted:

- the progress of major projects against budget, scope and timelines and the reasons for any variation from targets
- one project was recently completed, two projects are due for completion in May
- ongoing major projects include the Streamline Program and projects under the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund.

Overseeing the management and control of property and business affairs

Geelong Multideck Carpark

Council approved expenditure to construct a new multilevel carpark at the Geelong Waterfront Campus. This project fulfills Deakin's commitment to the University community to replace carparking capacity following the sale of the Carpark 2 site at the Geelong Waterfront Campus to the Victorian Government for the development of the Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Ballarat Clinical School

Council approved expenditure for the redevelopment of Deakin's Ballarat Clinical School. The clinical operates out of the Ballarat Base Hospital and is an integral part of Deakin's medical program, strategic aims and commitment to regional health, providing significant benefit to the Grampians community.

Carbon Neutral 2025 Program

Council approved expenditure for the Carbon Neutral 2025 Program (CN2025). The CN2025 Business Plan outlines the pathways to Deakin achieving its commitments to being (i) carbon neutral and using 100% renewable electricity by 2025 and (ii) carbon negative by 2030.

CN2025 will:

- elevate Deakin's reputation as an authentic leader in sustainability
- be implemented as a program of initiatives that reduce our emissions and replace fossil fuel energy sources, enabling the University to deliver a 14,760-tonne emission reduction across all campuses.

Overseeing risk management and monitoring systems of control and accountability

Risk reports

Council noted the Audit and Risk Committee's consideration of matters including:

- student complaints handling at Deakin in 2021
- health, safety and wellbeing

- Deakin's cyber security program
- the status of actions to address headline risks
- the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency's 2021 risk assessment of Deakin.

Modern Slavery Statement

Council reviewed the University's Modern Slavery Statement and mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with the *Modern Slavery Act 2018*.

Council approved the Statement for signing by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. The Statement will be published on the University's website and the website of the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs.

Overseeing and monitoring of academic activities

The Chair of the Academic Board reported on the Board meeting held on 13 April 2022 and noted the Board's consideration of a range of academic governance matters.

Council noted the Board had considered and approved:

- amendments to the Academic Board Regulations related to Academic Board membership. These are the first amendments made to University Regulations since the introduction of the streamlined legislation on 1 January 2021 and will be tabled in full at the upcoming meeting of the Legislation Committee
- posthumous award recommendations
- exceptions to course requirements for a number of courses, and a number of updates to courses and units arising from the regular course review cycle.

Council noted that the Board had engaged with a 'hot topic' presented by Professor Mark Rose, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Innovation on Indigenous knowledges and ideas and how they impact on Deakin's curriculum and operations.

Council's own affairs, appointments and effectiveness

2023 Council meeting schedule

Council received its 2023 meeting schedule.

Honours and appointments

Council conferred the title of Alfred Deakin Professor on ten Professors for their outstanding and sustained contribution to furthering Deakin's research, teaching and learning:

- Professor Catherine Bennett
- Professor Rachel Huxley
- Professor Felice Jacka
- Professor Liz Johnson
- Professor Emma Kowal
- Professor Sarah McNaughton
- Professor Kon Mouzakis
- Professor Alex Newman
- Professor Anna Peeters
- Professor Andrea Witcomb.

Council congratulated the awardees as individuals and as a group representing exceptional achievements across a breadth of disciplines.