

AGENDA PAPERS

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

**Notice is Hereby Given that a Meeting of the Council of Auckland
University of Technology will be held:**

**Council Room, Level 7, WA Building, AUT City Campus
On: Monday, 28 September 2026**

FROM: 2.30 – 5.30 PM

**Andrea Vujnovich
COUNCIL SECRETARY**



AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

Chancellor	Rob Campbell Appointed by Council
Pro-Chancellor	Marama Royal Appointed by Council
Members	Professor Damon Salesa Vice-Chancellor of the Auckland University of Technology Peter Treacy Appointed by the Minister Janine Smith Appointed by the Minister Shaun Clarke Appointed by the Minister James Portegys Appointed by the Auckland University of Technology Student Association Leo Foliaki Appointed by Council Michelle Huang Appointed by Council Welby Ings Elected by the Academic Staff of the Auckland University of Technology Lani Thomson Elected by the Professional Staff of the Auckland University of Technology

Karakia

Beginning and closing	
Tuia ki te rangi Dedicated to the sky Tuia ki te whenua and to the earth below Tuia ki te human kind are bound Ira tangata and inseperable Ka rongo te pō From the infinite potential Ka rongo te ao to the realization in light Tūturu whakamaua Let us come together Kia tīna with purpose Haumi e Hui e united and ready Tāiki e to progress	Kia tau iho Let the strength Te tauwhirotanga and serenity O te wāhi ngaro of our ancestors E pai ai te nohotahi guide us as we gather Ā tinana, wairua hoki in body and spirit Whakauenuku ake Holdfast to Te āio mō te katoa Peace for all Kia whakamaua kia tīna let it be realised Hui e Tāiki e for us all
Closing	
Unuhia, unuhia Draw on, draw on Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui Draw on the supreme sacredness	Kia tau kia tātou katoa May peace, love, and safety Te āio, te aroha me te marutau Be upon us all

Kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te ara takatā To clear, to free the heart, the body and the spirit of mankind Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga Rongo, suspended high above us Kia tina! Tina! Hui e! Tāiki e! Draw together! Affirm!	Thei mauri ora a promise of a glorious day
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PART A

OPEN AGENDA



COUNCIL PART A OPEN AGENDA

Council Agenda Part A (Open Agenda)

Monday 28 September 2026 from 2.30 pm to be held in the Council Room, Level 7, WA Building, AUT City Campus

Karakia		
Mihi – Chancellor		
1. Welcome, Apologies and approval of agenda	The Chancellor moves that apologies be noted and that Council approve the assignment of agenda items to Part A and Part B of the Council agenda.	
2. Declaration/Recording of any Interests	2. The attention of Members is drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020.	The Chancellor moves that the declarations if any be noted and the action taken be endorsed .
3. Constitutional Matters, Conferment of Degrees, and Policy	3.1 Noting Chancellor delegation – Granting, Rescinding, Revoking and Amending Qualifications – July and September 2026.	The Chancellor moves that the following be approved : • See item 3.1
4. Council Meetings	4.1 Council Meeting Draft Minutes Part A, 27 July 2026. 4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes Part A of the Council Meeting, 27 July 2026 not elsewhere on the agenda.	The Chancellor moves that the Minutes of Part A of the Council Meeting held on 27 July 2026 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting
5. Vice-Chancellor's Report	5. Vice-Chancellor's Report	The Chancellor moves that the Vice-Chancellor's Report be received .
6. Chancellor's Report	6. Chancellor's Report	The Chancellor moves that the Chancellor's Report be received .
7. Reports from Boards, Committees and Working Groups to Council	7. Reports and Minutes from the Academic Board, 27 July and 31 August 2026.	The Chancellor moves that Reports and Minutes from the Academic Board , 27 July and 31 August 2026 be received .
8. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Report	8.1 Health, Safety & Wellbeing Report 27 June to 8 September 2026	The Chancellor moves that Council receive the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report

9. Te Tiriti	9. No report	
10. Strategic Reports	10.1 Research Plan/Rautaki Rangahau Update	The Chancellor moves that Council receive the Research Plan/Rautaki Rangahau update report from Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research Professor Mark Orams
11. Student Success	11. No report	
12. Correspondence referred by the Chancellor	12. No correspondence	
13. Other matters arising for decision or noting	13.1 Update from the President of AUTSA. 13.2 Update from the Council Member elected by the Academic Staff of the Auckland University of Technology 13.3 Update from the Council Member elected by the Professional Staff of the Auckland University of Technology 13.4 AUT Sustainability Roadmap Update Report 13.5 Council Schedule 2027	The Chancellor moves that the Update from AUTSA be received. The Chancellor moves that the Update from the Council member Elected by the Academic Staff of the Auckland University of Technology be received. The Chancellor moves that the Update from the Council member Elected by the Professional Staff of the Auckland University of Technology be received. The Chancellor moves that the AUT Sustainability Roadmap Update Report from Lucy McKenzie, Head of Sustainability, Strategy & Planning be received. The Chancellor moves that the 2027 Council Schedule be received
14. Items moved from Part B of the agenda to Part A and General Business		

PUBLIC EXCLUSIONS

The Chancellor moved that the public be now excluded from Part B of this meeting, and that the following matters be discussed without public disclosure. This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and section 9 of the Official Information Act, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting AND THAT W Lawson, L Williams, A Vujnovich and R Nottingham be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed in the proceedings while the public are excluded. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to these matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of AUT for which those persons are responsible.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter. The public conduct of each item below would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9 of the OIA identified below.	Ground(s) under section 48(1) LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
15. Council Meeting Part B of the meeting held on 28 September 2026	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(k)	7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
16. Vice Chancellor's Report	s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(g)(i)	s7(2)(a), 7(2)(c), 7(2)(j), 7(2)(F)(i), 7(2)(f)(ii)
18.. Report from AUT Millennium	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), s 9(2)(k)	s7(2)(b), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
19. Report from AUT Ethics Committee	s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(g)(i)	s7(2)(a), 7(2)(c), 7(2)(j), 7(2)(F)(i), 7(2)(f)(ii)
21.1 Draft Minutes of Finance and Audit Committee held on 21 September 2026	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), s 9(2)(k)	s7(2)(b), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
23. Other Business	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(g)(ii),	7(2)(a), 7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(f)(ii)



Part A
OPEN AGENDA
ITEM

3.1

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: **GRANTING, RESCINDING, REVOKING AND AMENDING QUALIFICATIONS – JULY AND SEPTEMBER 2026**

Date: **15 SEPTEMBER 2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL NOTE THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAS EXERCISED A DELEGATION UNDER THE COUNCIL DELEGATION POLICY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL ACADEMIC STATUTE AND SECTION 283 OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT 2020 TO:

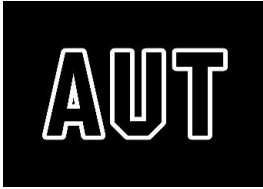
JULY

1. *WITHDRAW THE APPROVAL FOR CONFERRAL OF THE QUALIFICATION FOR THE STUDENT IN THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE.*

SEPTEMBER

1. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2026 SEPTEMBER MONTHLY CORPORATE CYCLE ON 10 SEPTEMBER.*
2. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY CERTIFICATES CYCLE ON 10 SEPTEMBER.*
3. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY'S (COP) CYCLE ON 10 SEPTEMBER.*
4. *REVOKE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE STUDENTS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE AHEAD OF THE 2026 SEPTEMBER CORPORATE CYCLE ON 10 SEPTEMBER.*

The schedules are in supplementary papers.



PART A
OPEN AGENDA ITEM

4.1

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Minutes of Part A of the Council Meeting held on 27 July 2026

Date: 18 September 2026

Author: A Vujnovich

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING PART A HELD ON 27 JULY 2026 BE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF THE MEETING

CONFIDENTIAL



MINUTES

Council Meeting

Meeting held 27 July 2025 at 2.30 pm
AF Building, North Shore Campus, Auckland

PRESENT:	R Campbell (Chair), M Royal, D Salesa, J Smith, L Foliaki, W Ings, J Portegys; S Clarke, M Huang, L Thomson, P Treacy.
SECRETARY:	A Vujnovich, Council Secretary R Nottingham, Minute Taker
IN ATTENDANCE:	L Williams (Chief Financial Officer and AVC Finance and Infrastructure); W Lawson (DVC Academic); S Davies (AVC People & Culture); A Binning (Director Health & Safety) - Item 8.1; J Scarbrough (Group Director Student Services & Administration) - Item 20.2; K Steele (Director Organisational Development) – Item 23.1.
IN APOLOGY:	None.

HEALTH AND SAFETY Notes (refer appendix)

PART A OPEN AGENDA

The meeting was opened with a karakia led by the Chancellor.
Noted Connor Greenslade an AUT student would observe Part A of the meeting.

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved

1. *THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS TO PART A AND PART B OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA BE APPROVED, NOTING VICE CHANCELLOR REPORT WILL BE DISCUSSED IN PART B OF THE AGENDA.*

2 DECLARATION/RECORDING OF INTERESTS

The attention of Members was drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020. No additional items were noted.

Resolved

THAT THE DECLARATIONS BE NOTED AND THE ACTIONS TAKEN BE ENDORSED.

3 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTER, CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND POLICY

3.1 Minutes of the previous meeting

Received

Draft Minutes (Part A), of the Council meeting held on 25 May 2026

Resolved

THAT COUNCIL NOTE THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAS EXERCISED A DELEGATION UNDER THE COUNCIL DELEGATION POLICY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL ACADEMIC STATUTE AND SECTION 283 OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT 2020 TO:

JUNE 2026

1. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE BURNHAM MONTHLY CORPORATE CYCLE ON 24 JUNE.*

JULY 2026

1. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2026 WINTER GRADUATION CORPORATE CYCLE ON 30 JULY.*
2. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE JULY MONTHLY CERTIFICATES CYCLE ON 30 JULY.*
3. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE JULY MONTHLY CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY (COP) CYCLE ON 30 JULY.*
4. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2026 WINTER OFFSHORE CYCLE ON 30 JULY.*
5. *REVOKE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE STUDENTS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE AHEAD OF THE 2026 WINTER GRADUATION CORPORATE CYCLE ON 30 JULY.*

3.2 Honours Policy Amendment

Received

Amendment to Honours Policy CP_08

Resolved

THAT COUNCIL APPROVES THE AMENDMENT TO HONOURS POLICY CP_08 TO INCLUDE NOMINATION GUIDANCE UNDER CLAUSE 3.4 EMERITUS PROFESSOR

4 COUNCIL MEETINGS AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

4.1 Minutes of the previous meeting

Received

Draft Minutes (Part A), of the Council meeting held on 25 May 2026

Resolved

THE MINUTES OF PART A, COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 2026 BE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF THAT MEETING.

4.2 Matters Arising

- Chancellor and Pro Chancellor with the involvement of Te Toi Aronui would arrange an initial hui between AUT and Ngāti Whatua Ōrakei;
- Council noted the status of the matters arising.

5 VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Moved to Part B discussions.

6 CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Noted in discussion

- An update on Council member appointments was expected imminently.

Resolved

THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S VERBAL REPORT BE RECEIVED

7 PART A – REPORTS FROM BOARD, COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS OF COUNCIL

7.1 Academic Board Reports and Minutes, 25 May and 6 July 2026

Received

Academic Board Reports and Minutes, 25 May and 6 July 2026

Noted in Discussion:

- Management to provide information about AUT's report to the quality assurance agency as part existing action to present on academic quality;
- Error in minutes of 6 July meeting should be corrected to reflect 2027 student fees had not been approved as at the date of that meeting.

Resolved

THAT THE ACADEMIC BOARD REPORTS AND MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY AND 6 JULY 2026 BE RECEIVED.

8 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT

8.1 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report, 6 May to 26 June 2026

Received

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report, 6 May to 26 June 2026

Noted in discussion

- Requested evidence of AUT's critical risks be circulated to Members before the next Council meeting when a detailed discussion should be held;
- Advice had been sought on definition of officer under the H&S legislation, which clearly included Council members and the Vice Chancellor, but definition was evolving and not clear whether it extended to some or all Executive members;
- Pending further clarity, Executive encouraged to conduct themselves as if they were officers;
- Executive KPI was at least 90 percent of incidents closed within 28 days, and should be reported in future;
- Any further update on the WorkSafe assessment should be reported to Council immediately;
- People & Culture Committee would receive summarised H&S reports in future with full reports being presented Council

Actions:

- Management to circulate a list of AUT critical risks to Council members before the September meeting.
- Management to include H&S Incident Closure KPI reporting in future H&S reports.

Resolved

THAT THE HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT BE RECEIVED.

9 TE TIRITI REPORT

No report

10 STRATEGIC REPORTS

No report

11 STUDENT SUCCESS

No report

12 CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED BY THE CHANCELLOR

No correspondence.

13 OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION OR NOTING

13.1 Update from AUTSA

Received

Update report from AUTSA

Noted in discussion

- Increasing numbers of students working but eight times more students looking for a job than jobs advertised;
- Experience of students in jobs across different years, and whether data was available to inform AUT's response to the issue;
- Need to do more to keep students on campus, which was influenced in part by their initial experiences during orientation;
- Management was working to enhance orientation week in 2027, potentially including a collaboration with the University of Auckland.

Resolved

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AUTSA

13.2 Update from Council Member elected by the Academic Staff of AUT

Received

Update report from Council Member elected by the Academic Staff of AUT

Noted in discussion

- Need to consider how to address digital equity, particularly with increasing AI cost including in technical areas such as media;
- Conversations should be encouraged at all levels across the institution to raise awareness and find solutions to help address this issue;
- Management noted the AI taskforce had equity at the heart of its approach, with the development of an AUT secure large language model widely available, but thoughtful delivery was needed as universal access was not affordable;
- Management was best placed to address this issue and engage with relevant stakeholders to identify how to best address technologies needed for particular programmes;
- Encouraged Management to continue to deepen its understanding and response to pedagogical implications of AI and to keep Council updated.

Resolved

THAT THE UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTED BY THE ACADEMIC STAFF OF THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY BE RECEIVED.

13.3 Update from the Council Member elected by the Professional Staff of AUT

No report.

13.4 Report on Strategic Planning for 2027 Council Academic and Professional Representative Elections

Received

Report on Strategic Planning for 2027 Council Academic and Professional Representative Elections

Noted in discussion

- How to ensure wider understanding of Council member's role and encouraging more staff to propose themselves or other people;
- Academic and Professional Representatives to consider approach to election of staff representatives.

Action: Academic and Professional Representatives to consider approach to election of staff representatives.

Resolved

THAT THE REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR 2027 COUNCIL ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS BE RECEIVED

14 GENERAL BUSINESS AND ITEMS MOVED FROM PART B TO PART A

The Chancellor invited the public observer, Connor Greenslade, to speak to the meeting. Connor queried the options for setting up a stall to sell comics, with AUTSA offering the club establishment route and to meet with Connor, noting if it was a solely commercial purpose, AUT's standard commercial approach may apply.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

The Chancellor moved that the public be now excluded from Part B of this meeting, and that the following matters be discussed without public disclosure. This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and section 9 of the Official Information Act, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting **AND THAT** L Williams, W Lawson, A Vujnovich, R Nottingham, be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed in the proceedings while the public are excluded. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to these matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of AUT for which those persons are responsible.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter. The public conduct of each item below would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9 of the OIA identified below.	Ground(s) under section 48(1) LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
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16. Vice Chancellor's Report	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(k)	7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
19. Report from AUT Ethics Committee	s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(g)(i)	s 7(2)(a), 7(2)(c), 7(2)(j), 7(2)(F)(i), 7(2)(f)(ii)

21.0.1 Report on the Fee-Setting Rationale and Recommendations – 2027	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(k)	7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
21.02. Report on Student Hardship, Retention And Completion	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(k)	7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
21.1 Draft Minutes of Finance and Audit Committee held on 13 July 2026	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), s 9(2)(k)	s7(2)(b), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
21.2 Draft Minutes of the People and Culture Committee held on 13 July 2026	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), s 9(2)(k)	s7(2)(b), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
23. Other Business	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(g)(ii),	7(2)(a), 7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(f)(ii)

APPENDIX TO PART A MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING 27 JULY 2026

DRAFT Health & Safety Tour – North Campus – 27 July 2026 - Hosted by Estates Operations and Naylor Love – AL Building Construction Site and AH Building Clinical Spaces

Stephen Davies & Andrea Binning (People & Culture), Jason Happy (Group Director Estates Operations), Naylor Love Staff

Officers Duty being supported

- “To acquire, and keep up to date, knowledge of work health and safety matters” s.44 (4) (a) HSWA 2015.
- “To gain an understanding of the nature of the operations of the business or undertaking of the PCBU and generally of the hazards and risks associated with those operations” s.44 (4) (b) HSWA 2015.
- “To ensure that the PCBU has available for use, and uses, appropriate resources and processes to eliminate or minimise risks to health and safety from work carried out as part of the conduct of the business or undertaking” s.44 (4) (c) HSWA 2015.
- “To ensure that the PCBU has, and implements, processes for complying with any duty or obligation of the PCBU under this Act” s.44 (4) (e) HSWA 2015.

Welcome, introductions, health & safety briefing and Q&A

Slides presented by Estates Operations and Naylor Love. Key points noted:

- AUT’s approach to construction and constructor management process. H&S evident through a project from contractor selection, site safety plan and high risk and incident reporting and management, monitoring and reviews both from self-assessment and independent safety observations, with a post completion review and lessons learned taken forward.
- AUT approach to overlapping duties for larger project involved project area handed over to contractor with AUT subject to contractor rules in that part, and surrounding site in AUT control with need to restrict movement of goods and persons to manage safety of other staff and students;
- AL Building project works included seismic upgrade and asbestos removal, which was undertaken under licence before trades but was not friable, and the roof was reclad and reroofed, Naylor Love was the contractor undertaking project;
- Naylor Love outlined its approach to H&S provided which included subcontractor pre-qualification audit, site specific safety plan, subcontractor H&S performance assessed, and permits required for all high risk activities for critical risk management such as hot works, asbestos, live electrical and confined space and harness work.
- Preference for hot works to be done but if onsite off site with mitigations including spotters, controlled station on site, in-situ with blankets, fume extraction and fire watch in line with AUT insurance requirements;
- Training and prevention a big focus with site wide tool box talks to whole site, supervisors meetings and two-way feedback between contractor and sub-contractors and acknowledging positive proactive behaviour;
- Reported both Lead and Lag indicators and encouraged sub-contractors to identify lead indicators to spot trends;
- Secure single point of access was all fenced off with all equipment inside the perimeter, emergency response plan in place and strict enforcement of induction prior to site works;
- Asbestos removal carried out by licensed specialist, WorkSafe notified, removal plan signed off, independent verifies area safe before other use to ensure site was clean ;
- Equipment has been calibrated to the wooden flooring able to carry less load than cement flooring;
- Naylor Love was audited every year as part of ISO accreditation.

Discussion Points

- Site control by Naylor Love did not remove AUT PCBU responsibilities, though in event of incident on site first port of call would be Naylor Love but AUT managed site as if it had joint and several liability;
- Differences of policy between AUT and the contractor were worked out between the parties, with AUT’s policy taking precedence and ongoing reviews by independent auditor to ensure compliance;
- Asked to see Naylor Love’s critical risk list to understand and compare to AUT’s list of critical risks;
- Naylor Love confirmed that all critical risks were assigned owners, usually those who applied for the permit and steps taken to ensure the owners understood the risk and mitigations with a monthly review of risk register and mitigations, and senior manager sign off required for risks remaining high after mitigations.

PPE was provided to all visitors to AL Building site being hard hat, high vis jacket and safety glasses and were accompanied at all times by Naylor Love representatives

Key Points discussed and noted by Members:

AL Building Construction Site – guided walk through by Naylor Love on their site :

- Site had single access which was secure.
- Site was tidy , well organised and clean with cables arranged away from walkways.
- All on site workers observed wearing full PPE but no hot works or working at height observed on site.
- Naylor Love highlighted their approach with subcontractors (no NL site staff in Auckland) to create a “one team” and encouragement of proactive reporting without blame and used as opportunities to learn;
- Naylor Love supported subcontractors to improve performance and with policy paperwork where necessary.

AH Building - guided walk through of new clinical spaces by Matthew Carroll, Head of School Allied Health

- Walk through of podiatry and physiotherapy clinics on the first floor of the building newly fitted out spaces designed for use as working clinics;
- Spaces allowed clinical placements to be undertaken by some AUT students on site and were modelled on overseas’ approaches.
- AUT physiotherapy clinic run as private clinic and was accredited by ACC;
- Physio space designed to allow close supervision by staff of students treating individual patients in separate cubicles;
- Clinic well laid out with no equipment or wires obstructing walkways/pathways.
- Podiatry had recognised some gaps in H&S procedures to aid role of clinicians in managing H&S matters.
- Patient privacy and confidentiality were key areas being managed.
- AUT podiatry clinic also newly set up and students trained in year 1 on the equipment.
- Separate rooms had been allocated to both sterilisation of equipment and to creating orthotics and other equipment for patients, latter of which required and had appropriate extraction.
- Processes were in place to manage sharp implements used in podiatry including scalpel blade removal machine which avoided staff and students having to do this manually, reducing injury and also enabling scalpel handles to be safely sterilised.
- There were also needle bins in situ with any sharps incidents reported in Noggin, H&S system.
- Infection incidents for patients in clinic was rare but noted such events should be reported in Noggin.

ENDS

COUNCIL MEETING RAISED	ACTION	WHO	STATUS/ TARGET DATE
28 July 2025	7.1 Academic Board Reports and Minutes Management to present to Council on Academic Quality including data, benchmarks and framework. <u>September update:</u> Please see presentation following this table which will be presented by the DVC A in the meeting.	DVC Academic	Actioned
28 July 2025	9.1 Te Tiriti Management to present on Māori student numbers and experience in AUT in a future report.	Te Toi Aronui	Open/December 2026
29 September 2025	5. Vice Chancellor's Report Management to provide information on resource plans to support student success given planned growth of international onshore students.	DVC Academic	Open/December 2026
8 December 2025	5.1 Vice Chancellor's Report Chancellor and Pro Chancellor to develop proposals for governors of Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei and AUT to work more closely together, such as through an annual wānanga. <u>July Update:</u> Discussed at July Council meeting with hui to be organised.	Chancellor & Pro-Chancellor	Actioned
28 April 2026	13.1 Update from AUTSA Management to diarise presentation from SS&A on scale and effects of student hardship and systems in place to help address it.	Group Director Student Services & Administration	Actioned
25 May 2026	5 Vice Chancellor's Report Management to present on AI governance, including on policy and how AI governance should be framed for staff, students and research data sovereignty. <u>September Update:</u> Refer agenda item 23.1	VCO	Actioned
25 May 2026	5 Vice Chancellor's Report Management to present on effects of student hardship on attendance, retention and completion rates.	Group Director Student Services & Administration	Actioned
25 May 2026	7.1 Health, Safety & Wellbeing Report Management to provide a paper for discussion to address key governance points from the HSW training. <u>September update:</u> Please refer to September Council H&S report.	AVC People & Culture	Actioned
25 May 2026	7.2 Health & Safety Roles and Responsibilities	AVC People & Culture	Actioned

	• Management to confirm what, if any, roles met the legal definition of officer in AUT, beyond Council members.		
27 July 2026	8.1 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report, 6 May to 26 June 2026 • Management to circulate a list of AUT critical risks to Council members before the September meeting. • Management to include H&S Incident Closure KPI reporting in future H&S reports. <u>September update:</u> Please refer to September Council H&S report.	Director Health & Safety	Actioned Actioned
27 July 2026	13.4 Report on Strategic Planning for 2027 Council Academic and Professional Representative Elections • Academic and Professional Representatives to consider approach to election of staff representatives.	Academic and Professional Representatives	Open/April 2027



AUT

Academic Quality: overview for Council

28 September 2026, Wendy Lawson DVCA



Outline

- Academic QA ecosystem overview
- Academic Audit: current position
- Executive oversight: our process
- Looking ahead at national level



Academic QA ecosystem: overview

- National university academic accreditation system
- Programme lifecycle QA
 - On establishment, after first delivery, periodic reviews
- Peer review
- Clear internal approval processes
 - ‘many eyes’
- Regular student feedback
- Academic audit
- Note: also *professional* accreditation for some programmes



Academic Audit: current position

- Final cycle overseen by Academic Quality Agency
- Enhancement theme: *“Access, outcomes and opportunity for Māori students and for Pasifika Students”*
- Last Academic Audit report published early 2025
- ‘One year on’ check in earlier this year
- Of the 12 recommendations
 - 5 noted as well advanced
 - 4 in progress
 - 3 at ‘early stage’
- Next report due February 2027

The Panel recommends that the University consider how information and data governance include principles for Māori data sovereignty and Pacific data sovereignty.	Well advanced
The Panel recommends that the University consider how reflecting appropriate tikanga for its different campuses in teaching spaces can support the implementation of Te Aronui and Te Kete.	Early stage
The Panel recommends the University urgently address a lack of consistent in academic decision-making that impacts on the equitable treatment of students with respect to: academic advice, academic complaints and appeals, breaches of academic integrity or student discipline. Other areas of inconsistency should also be addressed, including: guidance on the use of Generative artificial intelligence, support and resourcing for postgraduate research students, and responding to student feedback. The effectiveness of measures to ensure consistency should be monitored and reported regularly.	In progress
The Panel recommends the University review the terms of reference for and activities of Academic Board to ensure they are providing adequate guidance and monitoring of academic quality.	Early stage
The Panel recommends that in progressing its planned work on administration of work placements, the University also pay attention to ameliorating the challenges faced by students, particularly those with caring responsibilities or studying part-time, in completing their work placement requirements.	Well advanced
The Panel recommends the University revisit recommendation 2 from its Cycle 5 academic audit and ensure that students are able to access accurate and timely course advice that supports the completion of their qualifications in the least time possible.	In progress
The Panel recommends the University strengthen the contributions of Pacific voices to formal curriculum development, approval and review processes.	In progress
The Panel recommends the University increase capacity and capability to undertake assessment and supervision in te reo Māori.	Early stage
The Panel recommends the University encourage and monitor engagement in professional development for teaching and update its Professional Learning Framework.	In progress
The Panel recommends that the University review whether delegations held by the Dean of the Graduate Research School are adequate to allow them to manage their responsibilities for postgraduate research students across the University.	Well advanced
The Panel recommends the University raise the profile of the Register of Supervisors and consider whether requirements for maintaining registration as a research student supervisor are adequate.	Well advanced
The Panel recommends that the University reinforce the need for respectful support and manifesting a duty of care for postgraduate research students across the University.	Well advanced

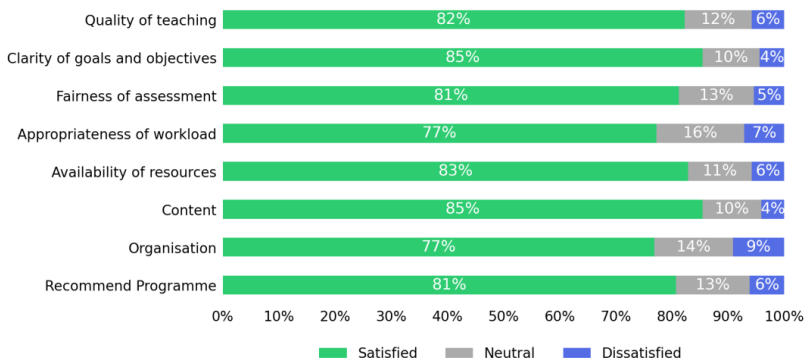


Our annual Executive process

- Traditionally, remit almost exclusively of academic governance
- Now, annual executive leadership review
 - DVC A, Dean plus relevant SME leads
- Based mainly on 'Annual Programme Survey' results
- Focus: programmes 'flagged' in APS
 - Satisfaction $\leq$ 50%
 - Dissatisfaction $\geq$ 20%

University-level results:

- Response rate: 4029 responses from 24,034 invitations – **16% overall**. This represents a drop from 2024 and continues the trend of a declining response rate.
- **81%** students would **recommend their programme to others** (no change from last year)
- **Lowest scores overall are for Organisation (77%) and Workload (77%)**
- **70% of programmes had 80% or more respondents indicating that they would recommend their programme to others**. Three programmes had less than 50% of respondents indicating they would recommend their programmes.
- **79% of respondents would recommend their course to others (up 2%)**.
- **125 courses** (12% of those that met the response threshold) were **below University benchmarks**.



Sub-groups:

- Respondents with a noted impairment reported higher dissatisfaction or lower satisfaction for all items with the exception of *Appropriateness of Workload*.
- New students (first time studying in 2025) rated all items more positively than returning students (this was observed in 2024 results)
- Students whose main campus was listed as North rated *Appropriateness of workload* lower than the university aggregate while South students were more dissatisfied with *Availability of resources* than the university aggregate. Students with their main campus as City were more satisfied with *Organisation*.

APS question areas

- **Quality of Teaching**
- **Clarity of Goals and Objectives**
- **Fairness of Assessment**
- **Appropriateness of Workload**
- **Availability of Resources**
- **Content**
- **Organisation**
- **Recommend Programme to Others**

APS 2025 factoids

A mixed picture in student comments– strengths and challenges:

- High overall satisfaction with teaching quality – countered somewhat by concerns in some areas with perceptions of inconsistency in teaching quality across courses.
- Students were overall positive about well-prepared and accessible learning materials supporting their academic performance and confidence. This was contrasted with some concern about access to labs or simulation space, the availability of lecture recordings, and comments about the use of outdated learning materials.
- Students noted concern about unclear marking criteria or inconsistent grading standards, workload management and assessment bunching.
- A notable theme in 2025 comments was the difficulty of balancing study with personal and family commitments – a concern more prominent in 2025 comments. Students expressed positive sentiments about support services in this regard.
- Students highlighted fragmented communication and course organisation as contributing to a stressful learning environment. The organisation of placements featured here.
- Overall satisfaction was high, however in 2025 comments students were more likely to comment on affordability and financial pressure as an issue for learning and student experience. Related to this were comments about ‘value’, given the cost of studying.



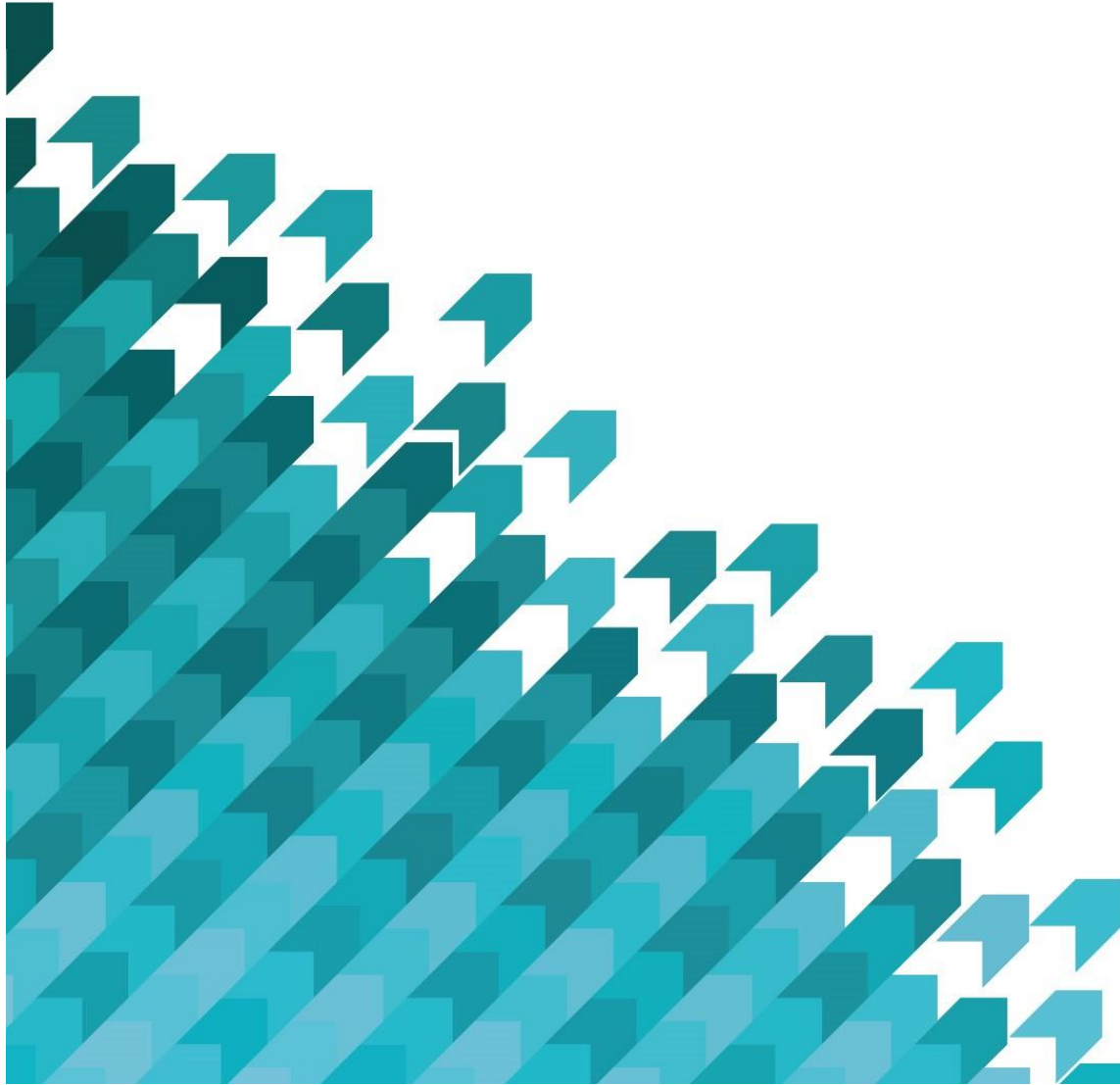
Changing national QA ecosystem

- Overall
 - *From*: national external accreditation via CUAP
 - *To*: audited self-accreditation
- Audit
 - *From*: Academic Quality Agency
 - *To*: Matatāhuna Universities Quality Assurance Agency
- National framework for expectations and standards
 - Owned by NZVCC
 - In development by UNZ Education Sub-Committee
- Active development right now
- 2027 will be transition year
- Full implementation by 2028



Likely framework features

- Compliant with *International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education*
- Aligned to NZ Qualifications and Credential Framework framework
- Internationally-informed and benchmarked
- Principles-based e.g.
 - Programme approval part of wider QA lifecycle
 - International credibility matters
 - Audit should test institutional system - not duplicate it
 - Institutional autonomy built in



Kia ora: pātai?



PART A	5
OPEN AGENDA ITEM	

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Date: **28 September 2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT BE RECEIVED

SECTION 1. AUT'S CURRENT POSITION

1.1 Vice-Chancellor's introduction

Across the reporting period, AUT continued to make progress against Te Kete through growth in postgraduate education, research capability, strategic partnerships and institutional transformation.

A notable feature of the period has been strong engagement from both prospective and current learners. AUT Online delivered a third consecutive intake above target, with strong enrolment growth accompanied by continued improvements in student retention, course completion and learner satisfaction. AUT LIVE also attracted more than 5,300 prospective students and whānau, generating over 4,300 new prospective student leads and reinforcing demand for AUT's distinctive educational offering.

The period also saw AUT strengthen its profile and influence through a number of significant external engagements. Hosting the Viet Nam-New Zealand Higher Education Skills Forum and welcoming His Excellency President Tô Lâm of Viet Nam demonstrated AUT's growing ability to convene conversations of regional importance while creating new opportunities for collaboration in education, research and innovation.

Research activity and visibility remained strong, with record participation in Research Week and continued growth in research capability, postgraduate supervision and externally funded research activity. At the same time, major transformation initiatives progressed across the University, including the delivery phase of Project Navigator and continued investment in campus infrastructure, sustainability and organisational capability.

HIGHLIGHTS

- AUT LIVE attracted 5,326 prospective students and whānau and generated 4,331 new prospective student leads.
- AUT Online achieved its strongest intake to date, enrolling 278 students against a target of 160 and achieving student retention of 92%.
- The Student Experience Transformation Programme entered delivery phase, including redesign of assessment support services managing approximately 54,000 student requests annually.
- AUT hosted the Viet Nam-New Zealand Higher Education Skills Forum and welcomed His Excellency President Tô Lâm of Viet Nam.
- Research Week recorded its highest participation to date, attracting more than 2,400 registrations and 1,600 attendances across 18 University events.
- AUT published its new Research Expectations Framework, providing greater clarity and consistency around research expectations, performance and development across the academic workforce.
- AUT strengthened its Pacific engagement through hosting a delegation from Tonga National University, including Vice-Chancellor Dr Giulio Masasso Tu'ikolongahau Pāunga.
- Nominations for the inaugural AUT Alumni Awards programme opened and closed during the reporting period, with award recipients to be announced in November.
- Two sold-out Artificial Intelligence Forum New Zealand hackathons engaged more than 220 participants across two AUT campuses.
- Staff engagement increased to 77%, four percentage points above the previous University-wide survey result.
- Ground-mounted solar array and microgrid projects were approved for the North and South Campuses, representing a significant milestone in AUT's sustainability and infrastructure programme.

SECTION 2. TE KETE | GRADUATES THE WORLD NEEDS

University highlights, activities and updates on our initiatives to enhance student success under Te Kete.

2.1 Academic Transformation

Academic transformation activity continues to focus on student-centred delivery, scalability and future-focused learning.

Progress continues with the Whole of University Service Model. Initiatives include enhanced customer relationship management capability and redesign of the Special Consideration process, which currently manages approximately 54,000 requests annually. These changes will introduce automated extensions, improved process efficiency and more personalised digital experiences for students. Guided by the principle of "digital first, and people when it matters", the programme aims to improve convenience and consistency while maintaining meaningful student support and human connection.

AUT Online continues to demonstrate strong demand for flexible postgraduate study. The July 2026 intake enrolled 278 students, achieving 174% of target. The Master of Applied AI enrolled 101 students, reaching 253% of target, while the Master of Applied Psychology achieved 189% of target. Since launch, AUT Online has enrolled 711 students against a target of 460, achieving 149% of planned enrolments. Student outcomes continue to improve, with course completion increasing from 94% to 96%, pass rates from 90% to 94%, and student satisfaction from 86% to 90%.

Further transformation activity included implementation planning for the new AUT Graduate Profile, continued assessment redesign for academic integrity in an artificial intelligence environment, implementation of InPlace placement software, and procurement activity for a new Curriculum Management System.

2.2 Student Success

Student success initiatives remained focused on transition, progression, accessibility and belonging.

Winter Graduation celebrated 2,716 graduates receiving 2,736 qualifications, including 75 doctoral degrees. A further 79 qualifications were awarded through AUT's articulation partnerships in Viet Nam and China.

Semester 2 transition activities achieved strong engagement. Orientation attracted more than 900 student participants at City Campus events, while the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Student Readiness Survey achieved response rates of 48% and 56% respectively, generating more than 1,100 responses to support targeted intervention and support.

Planning also continued for the next Disability Action Plan, alongside ongoing work to improve accessibility, accommodation support and inclusive learning practices across the University.

2.3 Innovative and technology-enabled teaching and learning

AUT continues to strengthen technology-enabled teaching, learning and assessment.

Assessment redesign initiatives responding to emerging artificial intelligence technologies are now underway across a number of programmes. Staff participation in workshops focused on authentic assessment and observable learning has remained strong, supporting the University's approach to academic integrity and educational quality.

Technology-enabled learning support was also expanded through Te Mātāpuna Library and Learning Services, with new AI toolkit workshops, research data management programmes and inclusive learning initiatives introduced during the period. Between January and July, academic and research skills workshops recorded 20,999 attendances by students and researchers, representing an 11% increase on the same period in 2025.

2.4 Equity and opportunity

AUT remains committed to improving educational opportunity, participation and success for priority learner groups.

The University continued to invest in initiatives that support equitable access to education, belonging and student success. Progress during the period included development of the next Disability Action Plan, alongside ongoing work to strengthen accessibility, accommodation support, disability training and inclusive learning environments across the institution. Targeted employability and engagement initiatives supported Māori, Pacific, disabled and international students through programmes focused on belonging, opportunity and learner success.

The Māori and Pacific Big Four Office Crawl provided direct engagement with major employers and achieved an average participant rating of 9.7 out of 10, while AUT's Positive Disclosure Workshop supporting disabled students recorded its highest attendance to date. AUT also partnered with Workbridge and universities across Aotearoa New Zealand to promote employment pathways for students with disabilities through the Mainstream Internship Programme.

International students participated in Manu Tūhono, a Māori cultural immersion experience that achieved 100% satisfaction and recommendation rates, helping strengthen belonging, cultural understanding and connection to the AUT community. Additional initiatives supporting international student success included employability and transition programmes designed to strengthen participation in New Zealand workplaces and communities.

SECTION 3. TE KETE | KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY AND APPLICATION WITH PURPOSE

University highlights, activities, and updates on our progress in fostering impactful and innovative research, learning, teaching, and technology, as guided by Te Kete.

3.1 Research transformation

AUT continues to strengthen its research culture, capability and performance through initiatives that support staff, disciplines and research excellence, in a time of significant change in the research sector, particularly in research funding.

A key milestone during the reporting period was the publication of AUT's new Research Expectations Framework. Released during Research Week, the Framework provides greater clarity and consistency around research expectations across academic disciplines and career stages, supports meaningful research goal setting and aims to strengthen alignment between research activity, Te Kete and Rautaki Rangahau.

Research Week 2026 also demonstrated the growing strength of AUT's research culture and visibility. The fourth annual event attracted more than 1,600 attendances, representing a 20% increase on 2025, and featured 18 separate events involving 405 presenters.

3.2 Building research activity

AUT continues to invest in the development of future researchers and research capability across the institution. Significant change, particularly regarding the funding of international PhDs is underway, and DVC Research Prof. Mark Orams will update Council on some of these developments.

The University currently supports 934 active doctoral candidates and 247 active master's thesis students, helping strengthen New Zealand's future research workforce. The doctoral cohort includes 80 Māori doctoral candidates and 41 Pacific doctoral candidates, reflecting AUT's commitment to growing research capability across diverse communities.

Researcher development activity remained strong throughout the period. The Graduate Research School continued its programme of workshops, researcher education and supervision development, including delivery of 25 postgraduate workshops during August and qualification of six new doctoral supervisors. Research capability was further supported through Te Mātāpuna Library and Learning Services, which expanded delivery of research data management workshops, Pacific Research Fono initiatives and researcher training programmes.

3.3 Research impact and success

AUT research continues to attract external investment and deliver impact across health, environmental, cultural and community priorities.

In July, AUT executed seven new research contracts with a combined value of \$813,099, while August saw a further 12 contracts signed with a combined value of \$1.28 million. New awards included AUT's first Health Research Council Explorer Grant, a Health Research Council Pacific Project Grant, two Arthritis New Zealand grants, and externally funded projects spanning brain injury, marine futures, Indigenous knowledge and environmental restoration.

Research capability and impact have also been strengthened through investment in strategic infrastructure. During the reporting period, projects supporting the GAIT Lab and Brain Health Hub were completed, providing enhanced facilities aligned with AUT's research strengths and partnership priorities.

3.4 Adapting to emerging technologies

AUT continues to strengthen its position as a university of technology through the application of emerging technologies across teaching, research and industry engagement. These is visible across portfolios, and a focus of the Artificial Intelligence Acceleration Centre paper to Council.

Demand for technology-focused qualifications remains strong, with the Master of Applied AI enrolling 101 students and achieving 253% of target in its latest intake. Artificial intelligence also continues to influence learning, assessment and capability development activity across the University. Assessment redesign work responding to generative AI is now underway across multiple programmes, while Te Mātāpuna introduced new AI literacy and capability-building workshops for students and staff.

AUT also strengthened its role in applied technology and innovation through two sold-out Artificial Intelligence Forum New Zealand hackathons, engaging more than 220 participants from industry, academia and the wider community.

AUT also continued to explore the intersection between emerging technologies, Māori knowledge systems and data sovereignty. During the reporting period, the Office of Māori Advancement supported delivery of the AUT South Campus | Tū Ātea AI Hackathon Festival 2026, which brought together approximately 96 participants across nine teams to explore practical applications of artificial intelligence grounded in community, mātauranga Māori and Indigenous approaches. Additional work contributed to the development of Māori artificial intelligence and Māori Data Sovereignty guidance to support institutional capability and decision-making.

SECTION 4. TE KETE | PARTNERSHIPS THAT ACCELERATE IMPACT

University highlights, activities and updates on our partnerships and engagements as outlined in Te Kete.

4.1 Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

AUT continues to advance Te Aronui and strengthen its capability as a Te Tiriti-led university through leadership, staff development and long-term planning for Māori success.

During the reporting period, organisation-wide capability development continued through delivery of Aronui Ora and Enacting Aronui. This work supports staff to give meaningful expression to Te Aronui in their practice and contributes to building a stronger institutional understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, mātauranga Māori and culturally responsive approaches to teaching, learning and leadership. The University also contributed Māori perspectives to major organisational initiatives including development of the Values identity and institutional policy and portfolio discussions.

Significant progress was also made on the development of Te Whiri Aronui, the Māori Futures Plan. A two-day wānanga brought together senior Māori staff from across AUT to consider findings from earlier engagement with Māori kaimahi and contribute to the next phase of planning. Work is now underway on a draft plan for Executive consideration.

4.2 Iwi engagement

AUT continued to strengthen relationships with mana whenua through environmental restoration and sustainability initiatives. During the reporting period 33 AUT students participated in a planting programme with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, contributing 556 native plants to restoration activities.

4.3 Pacific region

AUT continues to strengthen its role as a Pacific university through partnerships, leadership engagement and initiatives that support Pacific educational aspirations across the region.

A highlight during the reporting period was the visit of Dr Giulio Masasso Tu'ikolongahau Pāunga, Vice-Chancellor of Tonga National University, and a senior delegation from Tonga National University. The visit provided opportunities for knowledge exchange, institutional learning and relationship-building between two universities committed to supporting Pacific development through education.

The programme included a public conversation featuring Professor Damon Salesa and Dr Giulio Masasso Tu'ikolongahau Pāunga discussing the opportunities and challenges associated with building a national university in Tonga and the role of higher education in supporting the aspirations of Pacific communities. The engagement was delivered by the Office of Pacific Advancement and attracted strong interest from staff, students and the wider community.

4.4 Civic engagement

AUT strengthened its civic profile through a broad programme of engagement with government agencies, diplomatic representatives and community stakeholders.

The University hosted the Viet Nam-New Zealand Higher Education Skills Forum in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Ministry of Education (MoE), Education New Zealand (ENZ) and the Department of Internal Affairs, bringing together government, education and industry leaders from New Zealand and Viet Nam, including Minister for Tertiary Education Hon Penny Simmonds.

The University also strengthened relationships with government and diplomatic stakeholders through engagement with representatives from the United States, Japan, Taiwan and Samoa, alongside partnerships with the British Consulate General and the Ministry for Ethnic Communities. AUT's engagement with Ministers, Members of Parliament and parliamentary stakeholders was further strengthened through an event held in Wellington, reinforcing the University's contribution to national conversations on tertiary education, innovation and skills development.

4.5 Community engagement

Community engagement remains a defining characteristic of AUT's approach and contributes significantly to student development and community wellbeing.

Students participating in AUT Edge and Beyond AUT contributed more than 3,000 volunteer hours and a further 1,600 hours of leadership service across community organisations, sustainability programmes and civic initiatives. These activities continue to strengthen graduate capability while generating positive outcomes across the communities AUT serves.

The University also expanded its impact through the launch of the Innovation Franklin Mobile Innovation Lab. Developed in partnership with Innovation Franklin, the mobile facility will bring technology, innovation and future-focused learning experiences directly to schools and communities, supporting educational aspirations and pathways into tertiary study and emerging industries. The initiative was officially launched by Hon Andrew Bayly, alongside Damon Salesa and Mike Marr, Chair of the Innovation Franklin Board, highlighting the shared commitment of government, education and industry partners to strengthening innovation capability and opportunity across the region.

4.6 Alumni engagement and impact

A range of activities and engagements continue with our growing alumni community and celebrate the impact of graduates across Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally.

A significant milestone during the reporting period was the launch of the inaugural AUT Alumni Awards programme. Nominations opened on 1 July and closed at the end of August, with award recipients to be announced in November. Presented on a biennial basis, the awards recognise graduates whose achievements reflect meaningful impact through professional excellence, innovation, community leadership, Māori and Indigenous impact, and technology-led innovation. The programme has been designed to celebrate graduates whose

contributions embody AUT's values of Pono, Tika and Aroha, while showcasing the real-world impact of an AUT education.

AUT also continued alumni engagement through the Alumni Connect series. A Wellington event held at New Zealand Parliament brought together alumni, Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff, industry leaders and university partners. The event featured addresses from Minister for Tertiary Education Hon Penny Simmonds and Vice-Chancellor Professor Damon Salesa, while AUT alumni Dr David Wilson and Hon Simon Watts played prominent roles in the programme. The event showcased AUT research and innovation, including demonstrations of the University's robotics capability, and strengthened relationships between alumni, government, industry and community stakeholders.

International alumni engagement also continued through a successful alumni event in Malaysia hosted at the New Zealand High Commissioner's Residence, while the expansion of alumni ambassador networks in priority markets is helping strengthen connections between alumni engagement, international recruitment and AUT's global profile.

4.7 University-industry collaboration

AUT continues to develop its position as a hub for university-industry collaboration through partnerships that support innovation, workforce development, entrepreneurship and student opportunity.

The University's partnership with Auckland FC continues to generate strong outcomes, including nine student internships, employment opportunities for 15 AUT alumni and significant brand visibility. A campaign featuring Hiroki Sakai, who has commenced study towards an AUT MBA, achieved 1.8 million views and further elevated the profile of the partnership.

AUT also hosted two sold-out Artificial Intelligence Forum New Zealand hackathons involving more than 220 participants. The events brought together students, researchers, industry professionals and community members to develop solutions to real-world challenges using artificial intelligence.

Strategic partnership development progressed with Hitachi Vantara, HP, KiwiRail and CT Group. These opportunities span artificial intelligence, infrastructure, sustainability, workforce development, research, innovation and executive education, reinforcing AUT's role as a connector between industry, communities and knowledge creation.

4.8 International

The most significant international engagement was the hosting of the Viet Nam-New Zealand Higher Education Skills Forum and the visit of His Excellency President Tô Lâm of Viet Nam. The event, attended by Minister for Tertiary Education Hon Penny Simmonds, generated substantial media coverage across New Zealand and Viet Nam and positioned AUT at the centre of discussions about education, skills, innovation and international collaboration.

The visit has already generated tangible outcomes. Following the Forum, AUT was approached by CT Group, one of ASEAN's leading technology and innovation corporations, and has agreed

in principle to pursue a Letter of Intent exploring collaboration in research, innovation and commercialisation.

International engagement was further strengthened through alumni activity, expansion of alumni ambassador networks and strong recruitment performance across key markets. Campaign activity generated more than 15,000 leads across Southeast Asia and more than 13,500 leads in India, while Open Day events in China exceeded attendance targets by between 225% and 300%.

SECTION 5. TE KETE | OUR OFFER AND APPROACH

University highlights and updates on activities related to our positioning in the market as a university of technology and opportunity

5.1 Domestic brand position and marketing activities

AUT LIVE on 29 August was the University's most significant future student recruitment activity of 2026 to date, attracting 5,326 prospective students and whānau to campus despite challenging weather conditions. The event generated 8,193 registrations, including 4,331 new prospective student leads. Of those attending, approximately 21% had already applied to AUT, while 79% were still evaluating their tertiary options, reinforcing the importance of AUT LIVE in influencing future enrolment decisions and building the University's recruitment pipeline. Now in its ninth year of on-campus delivery, AUT LIVE continues to evolve as a key engagement platform. Regional participation was supported through dedicated transport from Tauranga, Whangārei and Kaikohe, helping strengthen AUT's reach beyond Auckland and improve access for prospective students and whānau.

Digital engagement also remained strong. AUT's social media activity reached 15.2 million people during the reporting period, while year-to-date audience growth reached 38% on Instagram and 10% on LinkedIn. Conversion activity remained positive, with 7.8% of users indicating interest in, or intent to apply for, study at AUT.

AUT's reputation and visibility were further strengthened through the launch of Brainwaves, a weekly double-page feature in the Sunday Star Times syndicated across Stuff's print and digital platforms. Led by AUT, the initiative showcases master's and doctoral research from all eight New Zealand universities and demonstrates the University's role in promoting the value and impact of research while supporting cross-sector collaboration.

5.2 Global brand position and marketing activities

AUT is focused on priority international markets through targeted marketing and recruitment activity. The Southeast Asia campaign generated 15,317 leads at an average cost of \$1.90 per lead, while China Open Day events significantly exceeded attendance targets across Guangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing, with some events achieving between 225% and 300% of expected attendance.

International marketing activity in July also delivered strong results across key recruitment markets, generating 13,575 leads in India and 2,512 leads in Southeast Asia. Digital engagement increased substantially, including rapid YouTube audience growth driven by Southeast Asian markets and a 187% increase in followers on Douyin, China's leading short-form social media platform, following promotion of AUT's China Open Day activities.

The International Marketing Strategy programme commenced during the reporting period. Initial priorities include development of Partner Connect, a dedicated platform designed to support international agents and recruitment partners with in-market engagement and promotional activity. Work is also underway on a suite of proof-point content that will showcase AUT's strengths, student outcomes and the value of an AUT education to international audiences.

SECTION 6. TE KETE | OUR PLACE, OUR PEOPLE AND OUR CULTURE

Highlights and updates on activities related to the University's operations.

6.1 Sustainability

AUT continues to strengthen its sustainability and regenerative practice through investment in infrastructure, behavioural change initiatives and long-term planning.

Consultation commenced on Te Ara Mauri Ora, AUT's draft Regenerative Action and Sustainability Plan, providing a foundation for future sustainability activity across the University. The Green Impact programme also concluded for 2026, with 60 staff and students participating and completing 413 sustainability actions that contributed to reductions in carbon emissions, waste and water consumption.

The University's sustainability agenda progressed further through approval of ground-mounted solar array and microgrid projects at the North and South Campuses. These initiatives will support emissions reduction and energy resilience objectives while creating opportunities for learning, research and community engagement. Sustainability activity also included ecological restoration initiatives undertaken in partnership with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, alongside continued work to minimise energy use, water consumption, waste generation and enhance biodiversity across AUT's campuses.

6.2 Library and learning support

Te Mātāpuna Library and Learning Services continues to play an increasingly important role in supporting student success, academic development and research capability across the University.

Between January and July 2026, academic skills and research development workshops recorded 20,999 attendances by students and researchers, representing an 11% increase on the same period in 2025. New initiatives introduced during the period included the Ako Atawhai Inclusive Learning suite for neurodivergent and international students, artificial intelligence capability workshops, Pacific Research Fono activities and research data management programmes. These initiatives support AUT's focus on learner success, research excellence and future-ready capability development.

Beyond direct learner support, the library continues to represent AUT through sector-wide negotiations with major academic publishers via the Council of Australasian University Librarians, helping secure sustainable access to research content and support open-access publishing opportunities.

6.3 Leadership, culture and organisational development

AUT continues to invest in leadership capability and organisational culture as critical enablers of strategy delivery and institutional performance.

The most significant organisational indicator during the reporting period was the 2026 Your Voice Pulse Survey, which achieved a 71% participation rate and an engagement score of 77%, representing a four-percentage point increase on the previous University-wide survey. The

survey reaffirmed Workplace Culture and Behaviour, Innovation and Growth, and Work-Life Balance as key institutional priorities.

Leadership development activity continued through programmes including Aspire, Buddy to Boss, Courageous Conversations and the Ethnic Women Leadership Course. A significant milestone was the launch of the blended-learning version of Aronui Ora. Nearly 300 staff accessed programme content shortly after launch, generating more than 700 homepage views and extending access to cultural capability development across the University.

Planning also progressed on implementation of the People Plan Measurement Framework, while work continued on activation of AUT's values framework through the development of a visual identity centred on Pono, Tika and Aroha. Together, these initiatives help strengthen a values-led culture aligned with Te Kete and Te Aronui.

6.4 Spaces and places

Several major capital projects achieved important milestones during the reporting period. The Business, Economics and Law relocation project was completed, the North Campus Library refurbishment remained on programme for completion later in 2026, and the Clinical Science Simulation Suite continued to progress on schedule and within budget. Planning also advanced on significant estate renewal projects including the WD and WW redevelopment programmes and upgrades to the WO building. These initiatives support AUT's ongoing investment in contemporary learning, teaching and research environments.

The University also continued strategic planning for future campus development through space utilisation analysis, asset management planning and long-term capital works forecasting, supporting a more sustainable and future-focused campus environment.

6.5 Enterprise and service transformation

A major milestone during the reporting period was the transition of Project Navigator into delivery. The programme represents a significant investment in improving the student experience through enhanced customer relationship management capability, redesigned student-facing services and more personalised digital engagement. Initiatives focus on communication, service performance and assessment-related support processes that collectively support a more connected student experience.

The University also continued to support campus vitality through a wide range of conferences, events, orientation activities and community engagement programmes delivered across its campuses. These activities contribute to a vibrant campus environment while supporting AUT's broader engagement and enterprise objectives.



PART A

OPEN AGENDA ITEM

6

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: The Chancellor's Report

Date: 28 September 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR



PART A OPEN AGENDA ITEM	7.1
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Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Report from Academic Board

Date: 18 September 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE ACADEMIC BOARD REPORTS AND MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 27 JULY AND 31 AUGUST 2026.

The minutes are in supplementary papers.

Academic Board Report to Council

Meeting held 27 July 2026

Strategic Matters and Policy Developments

Faculty Arrangements

The Vice-Chancellor outlined to Academic Board the proposal to combine the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law and the Faculty of Culture and Society, together with the School of Communication Studies from the Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies.

Committees of Academic Board

Programme Approval and Review Committee

The Board:

- **Approved a recommendation for a new Graduate Diploma in Teaching with specialisations in Primary and Secondary Teaching.** This new qualification addresses a current gap in our portfolio, and provides a graduate qualification for Primary Teaching, to complement existing offers. This qualification provides an option for apprentice-style work-integrated learning, with students working in the classroom with qualified teachers. The proposal now moves forward to CUAP.
- **Approved a recommendation to restructure the Bachelor of Health Science (Occupational Therapy).** The refreshed curriculum, which has responded to accreditation requirements, demonstrates clearer alignment with Occupational Therapy Board New Zealand competencies, contemporary occupational therapy practice, and AUT strategic frameworks. The proposal now moves forward to CUAP.

Academic Board Report to Council

Meeting held 31 August 2026

Strategic Matters and Policy Developments

Faculty arrangements

The Vice-Chancellor updated Academic Board on the proposal to combine the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law and the Faculty of Culture and Society, together with the School of Communication Studies from the Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies.

Publisher contract negotiations

Academic Board received an update on 2026 sector-wide publisher negotiations undertaken by the Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL).

Assuring and supporting learning

- Academic Board endorsed a new Academic Integrity Policy and revised Student Academic Misconduct Procedures. These align with the recently approved Assessment Policy and Procedures and AUT's Two Channel approach to assessment, which responds to the widespread availability of artificial intelligence by placing greater emphasis on observable evidence of student learning in assessment design.
- Academic Board approved an amendment to Part 5, Section 5 of the General Academic Regulations to support greater consistency in student experience.

Committees of Academic Board

Academic Planning Subgroup

Academic Board approved the following closures to new enrolments:

- The Economics, Accounting, Finance and Business Information Systems specialisations in the Master of Business and Bachelor of Business (Honours), from Semester 2, 2026.
- The Creative Writing major and minor, International Studies major and minor, and Spanish minor in the Bachelor of Arts, from Semester 1, 2027.



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AUT Council

Agenda Paper

Subject: **Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report: 27 June to 8 September 2026**

Date: **20 September 2026**

From: **Andrea Binning, Director Health & Safety**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current state of Health, Safety and Wellbeing at AUT and support Council's responsibilities for governance and oversight aligned with their duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

This report covers incidents reported in the period 27 June to 8 September 2026, with information and actions that have occurred or been reported over that period.

2. HSW Open Action Item

Action Items:

Date Raised	Action	Due Date	Current state
5th May	4.1 HSW Report Management to provide a paper for discussion to address key governance points from the HSW training.	Sept 2026/Open	Update below
25 May 2026	23.3 HSW Critical Risk Management to provide a list of critical risks for discussion.	Sept 2026/Open	Email sent 10 August, update below
25 May 2026	From H&S Governance training: Management to identify the executive risk owner for key operational H&S risks, present to Council on current state, known gaps, actions to address gaps and what is required from Council to next	Sept 2026/Open	Email sent 10 August, update below



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	meeting. This will form part of the point above and be included in the full Sept paper.		
25 May 2026	From H&S Governance training: Management to draft a Council statement on Council's responsibilities in relation to mental health, as part of the work currently underway. July meeting.	Sept 2026/Open	Update below

Key governance points from the H&S training

In May 2026, Council participated in a health and safety governance workshop facilitated by Mike Cosman. The workshop focused on the role of Council and Executive leaders in providing effective oversight of health and safety, with particular emphasis on critical risk governance, executive accountability, assurance, and long-term system maturity.

The key themes and priorities arising from the workshop were:

- **Maintain a strong focus on critical risks.** Organisations should concentrate on a small number of critical risks at any one time, rather than attempting to address all risk areas simultaneously. Prioritising three to four critical risks enables deeper understanding, stronger control implementation, and more meaningful assurance regarding the effectiveness of controls.
- **Strengthen executive ownership and accountability for risk.** Critical risks should have clearly assigned Executive owners supported by well-defined roles and responsibilities. Executive ownership includes ensuring appropriate resources are available to manage risks, maintaining accountability for risk reduction activities, driving operational ownership within business areas, and promoting collaboration where risks span multiple portfolios.
- **Ensure the Health and Safety Management System is business-led.** The workshop reinforced that the Health and Safety Management System should be owned by the business and led by the Executive, with Health and Safety teams providing specialist support and expertise. A co-designed approach was recommended to support long-term organisational success, recognising that it is preferable to invest time establishing the right foundations rather than implementing systems quickly without sufficient organisational buy-in.
- **Strengthen assurance and verification activities.** Mike highlighted the value of regular verification activities, including no-notice health and safety walkarounds, management inspections, internal reviews, and independent assurance activities. Verification does not need to be undertaken directly by Officers; rather, Officers should have confidence that effective assurance mechanisms exist. The workshop also emphasised the importance of undertaking these activities through humble enquiry, seeking to understand how work is performed and how risks are managed in practice, rather than focusing solely on compliance-based checks.



- **Focus on areas of strategic risk exposure.** Following the workshop, Mike reflected further on AUT's operating context and suggested additional focus should be given to:
 - Management of overlapping duties, particularly in relation to student placements where health and safety responsibilities are shared with external organisations.
 - Ensuring health and safety is embedded within asset management and infrastructure decision-making, including consideration of whether health and safety is being appropriately prioritised within the broader asset management programme.

These themes align closely with AUT's current work to develop the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Framework, clarify Executive ownership of critical risks, strengthen assurance activities, and deepen understanding of AUT's most significant risk exposures. Collectively, the workshop reinforced the importance of a risk-based, business-led approach to health and safety governance, with leadership attention focused on the risks that have the potential to cause the most serious harm.

AUT Health & Safety Critical Risk

Following the last Council meeting, the Critical Risk Register and supporting paper were circulated to Council members via email on 10 August 2026. The paper outlined the University's approach to undertaking a critical risk deep dive, which had been endorsed by the Executive.

A specialist contractor has been appointed and has commenced work within the Health and Safety team to support this process. The deep dive is focused on all faculties and directorates where identified critical risks may be present. Activities associated with each critical risk are being reviewed to validate where the risks exist, assess whether controls are in place and operating effectively, and identify any gaps in the current control environment. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by year end.

Where effective controls are identified within one area of the University and the same critical risk exists elsewhere, those controls will be considered for wider implementation to promote consistency across functions. Where gaps are identified and no effective controls exist, the central Health and Safety team will work with the relevant business areas to develop and implement appropriate controls through the new AUT Health, Safety & Wellbeing Framework.

The Critical Risk List has been published on Tuia as an interim reference document. Upon completion of the deep dive, this will be expanded into a comprehensive Critical Risk Register that will include inherent risk ratings, key controls, and residual risk ratings. Executive ownership of each critical risk is currently being established in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor and Assistant Vice-Chancellor People and Culture. In addition, guiding principles have been developed to support accountability and clarify responsibilities for the management of critical risks.

The papers previously circulated via email are attached as Appendix One to this paper.

Council Responsibilities in relation to Mental Health (Psychosocial Risk)

Under the AUT Health, Safety & Wellbeing Framework, Roles and Responsibilities Statements have been developed for all organisational levels. These will go live on 28 September 2026 and are being communicated across the University through targeted engagement and communication activities.



Council's responsibilities align with its due diligence obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. As a governance body, Council's role is to ensure that appropriate systems, resources, oversight, and assurance mechanisms are in place to effectively manage health and safety risks, including psychosocial risks that may impact mental health and wellbeing. While Council is not responsible for the day-to-day management of psychosocial risks, it is responsible for understanding the University's risk profile, seeking assurance that effective controls are in place, and monitoring whether these controls are operating effectively.

Executive Members hold key responsibilities for psychosocial risk management at an operational level and are accountable for implementing and maintaining the systems, processes, and resources necessary to identify, assess, and manage these risks across their areas of responsibility.

Council Role and Responsibility Statements can be found in Appendix Two. To summarise the key responsibilities relating to psychosocial risk management at Council and Executive level:

Council:

- Understand the nature of AUT's operations and the hazards and risks associated with them, including physical, psychosocial, critical and emerging risks.

Executive:

- Maintain an enterprise approach to physical and psychosocial risk, including clear risk and control ownership, effective Critical Risk Management and day-to-day risk management, and resources proportionate to the risk.

In addition to the responsibilities outlined above, further accountabilities are included within the draft Psychosocial Risk Management Protocol, which is scheduled for release later in 2026. As these protocols relate to operational implementation and management, responsibilities sit with management and Executive leaders rather than Council.

Executive:

- Set expectations for healthy work, ensure material psychosocial risks are resourced and review reliable, aggregated and de-identified information.

Together, these responsibilities ensure there is clear separation between governance oversight and operational management. Council's role is to receive assurance that psychosocial risks, including those that may affect mental health and wellbeing, are being effectively identified, managed, and monitored, while the Executive Leadership Team is responsible for implementing and maintaining the controls and resources required to manage those risks across the University.

3. Governance Knowledge and Awareness

During the reporting period the New Zealand health and safety regulatory environment continued to evolve, with a strong focus on critical risk management, officer due diligence, and assurance of control effectiveness.



These developments align closely with AUT's current work to strengthen critical risk governance, clarify executive accountability, and establish a university-wide critical risk framework.

Key External Developments

Health and Safety at Work Amendment Act 2026 Enacted

The most significant development during the reporting period was the enactment of the Health and Safety at Work Amendment Act 2026, which received Royal Assent on 9 July 2026 and will come into force on 1 April 2027.

Key changes include:

- Increased emphasis on the identification and management of critical risks.
- Clarification of officer due diligence obligations.
- Greater recognition of Approved Codes of Practice's as practical compliance benchmarks.
- Changes to notifiable injury and illness requirements.
- A stronger regulatory focus on managing significant risks and verifying control effectiveness.

The reforms reinforce the expectation that organisations can demonstrate that critical risks are identified, controlled, monitored, and subject to appropriate governance oversight.

Continued Regulatory Focus on Critical Risk Assurance

WorkSafe communications during the reporting period continued to emphasise the importance of critical control assurance and verification.

The regulatory expectation is that organisations can demonstrate:

- Identification of critical risks and critical controls.
- Clear ownership and accountability for risk management.
- Ongoing monitoring and verification that critical controls remain effective in practice.
- Assurance processes that provide confidence that risks are being managed as intended.

This reflects an increasing focus on evidence of control effectiveness rather than reliance on documented systems alone.

Strategic Implications for AUT

These developments reinforce the importance of AUT continuing to:

- Strengthen governance oversight of critical risks.
- Complete the critical risk deep dive and establish a mature Critical Risk Register.
- Confirm executive ownership and accountability for critical risks.



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- Embed critical control assurance and verification activities.
- Support Council and officers to meet their due diligence obligations through meaningful health and safety reporting and assurance.

This work positions AUT well for the legislative changes due to take effect on 1 April 2027 and aligns with the University's broader Health, Safety and Wellbeing Framework.

4. Te Ara Haumarū Programme

The Te Ara Haumarū Programme has now completed 97% of its scope and is progressing into the closure phase. Remaining activities are being transitioned into business-as-usual ownership to ensure ongoing management and delivery of outstanding actions.

Safety Showers

Funding has been approved for the previously identified safety shower installations. Estates have established a delivery project, with consent documentation expected to be submitted to Auckland Council shortly. Implementation remains on track for completion during the Christmas shutdown period.

Ventilation and Extraction Remediation

Estates have continued progressing remediation activities for spaces identified through the programme. Of the 21 spaces requiring remediation, 6 have been addressed through maintenance interventions, including system recalibration, HVAC flow and output adjustments, and servicing activities.

A further 12 remediation items require more substantial infrastructure works and are currently being scoped and costed. Funding requirements will be considered once detailed assessments are complete.

In 3 spaces, remediation through existing building infrastructure is not considered feasible. Engagement is underway with affected areas to determine appropriate risk mitigation measures and longer-term solutions to manage the identified risks.

With the programme substantially complete and remaining activities transitioning to operational ownership, this will be the final Te Ara Haumarū Programme update provided through Council reporting. Ongoing activities and any significant residual risks will be reported through established Health, Safety and Wellbeing governance and assurance processes as required.

Scope Update

- **244 items (97%)** have been completed or are no longer required (due to changes within spaces or activity)

Workstreams	Total Rec's	% of Rec's	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Not Required	% Complete
Regulatory Compliance	130	47%	0	1	120	9	99%
Safe Workplace, Safe Worker	19	7%	0	5	14	0	74%
Risk Prevention & Control	52	19%	0	2	43	7	96%



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Digital Solutions	19	7%	0	0	18	1	100%
Building Remedial Work	37	14%	0	1	33	3	97%
Organisational Management	8	3%	0	0	7	1	100%
Strategic AUT wide Initiative/Future Strategic Planning	9	3%	0	0	9	0	100%
Totals	274		0	9	244	21	97%

5. Understanding AUT's Operations and Risk Landscape

WorkSafe Workplace Assessments

At the time of writing, the WorkSafe workplace assessments conducted in June and July 2026 remain open, and AUT is awaiting WorkSafe's final findings and outcomes. No additional information has been provided by WorkSafe since the previous update. Any significant developments or outcomes will be reported to Council once received.

WorkSafe Notifiable Incidents

During the reporting period, two notifiable electrical events occurred. Joint investigations have been undertaken by the Health and Safety and Estates teams to determine the circumstances of each incident, identify any contributing factors, and confirm whether additional controls or corrective actions are required.

- **AH electric shock (13/8/26):** WorkSafe were notified and declined to investigate. The matter arose as a consequence of contracting personnel not following company safety procedures nor sound industry practice. Fortunately, no person suffered lasting injury. The contracting party in its entirety has been stood down whilst their competency for this sort of work is further assessed.
- **WC electrical arcing (31/8/26):** WorkSafe were notified and declined to investigate. The matter arose as a consequence of the contracting personnel electing to proceed with the works whilst the switchboard was still live. Fortunately, no person suffered lasting injury. After an initial stand down, the contracting party has now been deemed competent to complete further electrical works.

In response to both incidents, management have revised several procedures, notably expressly prohibiting works on a live switchboard without prior consent from AUT. This has now been communicated and confirmed as received by all contractors and consultants working on AUT sites. Additional corrective actions by each contractor have been agreed with follow up check ins booked.

AUT identified corrective actions around our induction and sign in process for contractors that have been implemented.

AUT's Health, Safety & Wellbeing Framework



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Implementation of AUT's new Health, Safety and Wellbeing Framework commenced in July 2026 with the publication of the new Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy and *The Way We Work at AUT Safely*, which sets out the University's shared expectations for health, safety and wellbeing. Both documents have been printed and prominently displayed across all campuses to support awareness and visibility.

The next phase of implementation will occur on 28 September 2026, with the launch of the new Roles and Responsibilities Statements. These will be supported by targeted communications and education activities designed to strengthen understanding of individual and leadership accountabilities across the University.

The Framework comprises 19 protocols, which will be progressively released as they are finalised and supported by the development of associated guidance, tools, and training materials. Protocols relating to health and safety risk management have been prioritised and are expected to be launched in November, supported by targeted training and engagement activities across the University.

Given the phased rollout of the framework through the remainder of 2026 and into early 2027, a broader awareness and adoption campaign is being planned for Semester One 2027. This will focus on reinforcing key expectations and embedding the framework into day-to-day practices, decision-making, and risk management activities across AUT.

Critical risk themes and trends

In the reporting period 103 incidents were reported. The highest concentration of events remained within Health and Environmental Sciences, with smaller clusters across Design and Creative Technology, Estates and other operational areas.

Incident trends remained consistent with previous periods, with manual handling injuries, slips, trips and falls, strains and sprains, and cuts or lacerations continuing to feature prominently. Health-related events, including fainting, medical episodes and other wellbeing-related incidents, also remained a recurring theme.

Several reports related to control and environmental issues, including equipment faults, workplace hazards, housekeeping concerns and procedural non-compliance. Several near misses highlighted the potential for more serious outcomes where critical controls are not effectively applied.

While overall injury severity remained low, the data continues to demonstrate exposure to known critical risk precursors, reinforcing the importance of effective supervision, adherence to safe systems of work and the maintenance of critical controls.

Higher consequence events were appropriately investigated, with corrective actions underway. A small number of actions remain open to support the completion of investigations and implementation of longer-term improvements.

Incidents by Faculty/Directorate

Faculty / Directorate	Current Period	Previous Period	Change
Health and Environmental Sciences	51	54	-2



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Faculty / Directorate	Current Period	Previous Period	Change
Design and Creative Technology	15	7	+8
Estates	13	5	+8
Business, Economics and Law	2	3	-1
Culture and Society	8	2	+6
Student Services and Administration	5	3	+2
Brand & Marketing	1	1	0
AUTSA	1	0	+1
People & Culture	5	3	+2
Te Mātāpuna (Library and Learning Services)	2	0	+2
Totals	103	75	+28

Key insights:

- Health and Environmental Sciences remains the largest contributor despite a slight decline. Numbers decreased from 54 to 51 (-3), but it still has the highest total by a significant margin.
- Design and Creative Technology and Estates recorded the largest increases. Both areas increased by +8, with Design and Creative Technology rising from 7 to 15 and Estates from 5 to 13. These are the strongest upward movements in the dataset. Contributing factors for Estates include the recent AUT Live event, WorkSafe Notifiable incidents and building/infrastructure near misses. DCT's uplift is contributed to reporting with semester and usual patterns around student learning environments.
- Culture and Society showed strong reporting growth; the number increased from 2 to 8 (+6), making it one of the most notable improvements during the current period. This is in line within semester teaching and increased awareness of reporting requirements.

Open Incidents**Overview**

There are currently 34 incidents open, down from 59 under the previous period. 16 are older than 28 days. Education for people leaders around investigating and closing Noggin incidents continues, and targeted communication has been sent to people leaders to address older open incidents.

Open Incidents by Faculty/Directorate

Faculty / Directorate	Total Open	28+ days open
Culture and Society	2	0
Design and Creative Technology	1	1



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Faculty / Directorate	Total Open	28+ days open
Business, Economics and Law	1	1
Health and Environmental Science	18	9
DVC Research	1	1
Estates	3	0
AUTSA	1	0
People & Culture	2	0
Student Services & Admin	4	4
Te Mātāpuna (Library and Learning Services)	1	0
Total	34	16

Incident Closure Timeframes

This reporting period provides an initial snapshot of incident closure performance. Of the 103 tickets raised during the period, 70 (68.0%) were closed within 28 days against the Executive KPI target of 90%. A further eight tickets were closed after 28 days, resulting in an overall closure rate of 75.7% for the period. A system report is currently being developed to provide Council with a rolling annual view of closure performance over the calendar year.

Closure timeframe	Number of tickets	% of total tickets
Closed within 7 days	48	46.6%
Closed within 8-14 days	7	6.8%
Closed within 15-21 days	9	8.7%
Closed within 22-28 days	6	5.8%
Total closed within 28 days	70	68.0%
Closed after 28 days	8	7.8%
Still open	25	24.3%
Total tickets	103	100%



6. Risk Management Capability

HSW Assurance Programme

There is currently one Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) audit underway. Given the commencement of the University-wide critical risk deep dive, it has been agreed that no additional HSW audits will be undertaken during 2026.

This approach avoids duplication of effort, as the previously identified audit focus areas, including Psychosocial Risk, Fieldwork and Off-Campus Research, and Construction, have all been classified as critical risks and will be subject to review as part of the critical risk deep dive. The outcomes of this work will provide a more comprehensive assessment of risk exposure, control effectiveness, and opportunities for improvement across these areas.

- Transport Safety (HSW) – In progress, documentation review and onsite auditing via interviews and observation is now complete. The audit report is due early October.

MPI Audit

MPI completed an audit on 13 August 2026, with AUT achieving an acceptable outcome. No new Corrective Action Requests (CARs) or non-compliances were identified. One minor non-compliance relating to training records remains open and is currently being addressed through the refinement of a digital record-keeping solution. Subject to successful implementation, this matter is expected to be closed at the next audit scheduled for mid-November.

As a result of the positive audit outcome, AUT will undergo a further audit in three months' time. Should a second consecutive acceptable outcome be achieved, AUT is expected to return to a six-month audit cycle.

AUT's new Biological Safety Manager commenced in late July. MPI has indicated that, at the next audit, it will review whether AUT can transfer responsibility for its Transitional Facilities from the current Nominated Delegate, Mark Orams, to the Biological Safety Manager. This would represent a further step towards embedding sustainable operational ownership and capability within the University's biosecurity management framework.

7. Forward Outlook

Priorities and planned initiatives to December 2026

- Receive notification on WorkSafe Workplace Assessments
- Continued roll out of AUT's Health & Safety Management Framework
- Formally close the Te Ara Haumarua programme
- Receive and implement recommendations from the Transport Audit
- Continue the Critical Risk deep dive
- Launch an educational campaign around incident management, including what, why and how to report, investigate and close incidents.
- Progress improvement or replacement of AUT's Incident Management system (Noggin)



8. Conclusion

This reporting period reflects continued progress in strengthening AUT's health, safety and wellbeing systems, governance and accountability arrangements. Significant work has been undertaken to establish the foundations of the new Health, Safety and Wellbeing Framework, clarify organisational responsibilities, and advance the University's approach to critical risk management through the ongoing critical risk deep dive.

Incident data continues to indicate generally low severity outcomes, although recurring themes involving manual handling, slips, trips and falls, health-related events, and control-related issues demonstrate ongoing exposure to known critical risk precursors across AUT's operational environments. The two notifiable electrical incidents reported during the period reinforce the importance of robust contractor management, critical control implementation and verification of safe systems of work.

The Te Ara Haumaru Programme is now substantially complete, with remaining activities transitioning into business-as-usual ownership. At the same time, AUT is progressing the implementation of its new Health, Safety and Wellbeing Framework, strengthening executive accountability for critical risks, and enhancing assurance processes to provide greater visibility of risk management performance and control effectiveness.

As regulatory expectations continue to evolve ahead of the Health and Safety at Work Amendment Act 2026 coming into force, AUT remains well positioned to further mature its approach to critical risk governance, assurance and due diligence. Key priorities for the remainder of 2026 will be completing the critical risk deep dive, embedding the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Framework, improving incident management performance, and strengthening organisational capability to effectively identify, manage and monitor risk across the University.



9. Appendix One – Health & Safety Critical Risk

Executive Agenda Paper

Purpose:	For Discussion
Subject:	HSW Critical Risk: Inherent Risk Assessment and Validation Approach
Meeting Date:	21 July 2026
Member:	Andrea Binning, Director Health & Safety

Recommendation(s): *THAT EXECUTIVE DISCUSS AND AGREE ON THE NEXT STEPS FOR H&S CRITICAL RISK*

Purpose:

The purpose of this paper is to support ELT discussion on the draft AUT H&S Critical Risk Register and seek feedback on the basis for the register, the inherent risk assessment method, the proposed validation sequence, and the resourcing approach for the next phase.

No decision on individual Executive ownership is sought at this meeting. The allocation of Executive ownership will be discussed following the meeting considering ELT feedback and the practical support required for each risk.

ELT is asked to focus on whether the proposed approach is appropriate, proportionate and achievable for AUT.

Background and Context:

The critical risk list was developed to identify the health and safety risks that require sustained governance attention because they have a credible pathway to severe or catastrophic harm. It is not intended to capture every workplace hazard, routine incident type, or local operational risk.

Step	What was considered	How this informed the list
1. Critical risk threshold	The Health and Safety at Work Amendment Act 2026 defines a critical risk as a risk associated with a hazard described in Schedule 1A, or with any hazard likely to result in death, a notifiable injury or illness, a notifiable incident, or an occupational disease listed in Schedule 2 of the Accident Compensation Act 2001. The Act comes into force on 1 April 2027.	The statutory definition and AUT Consequence Level 5 threshold were used together to screen the proposed risks. For this work, catastrophic harm includes fatality or multiple fatalities, permanent disabling injury, severe psychological harm, catastrophic loss, or major operational shutdown.
2. AUT operations	Activities were considered across laboratories, workshops, fieldwork, construction, facilities, traffic interfaces, student-facing services, contractor work, and research environments.	The list reflects AUT's actual operating profile rather than a generic hazard list.



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Step	What was considered	How this informed the list
3. Sector benchmarking	The list was cross-checked against critical risk approaches used in New Zealand and Australian university environments and against recurring high-consequence university hazards.	This provided an external completeness check and confirmed broad alignment with university-sector practice.
4. Regulatory context	WorkSafe advises that, from 1 April 2027, large PCBUs must manage both critical and other risks while giving critical risks the highest priority. The reforms also clarify officer due diligence as governance activity that includes understanding risks, ensuring appropriate resources and processes, and verifying that those resources and processes are being used.	This supports governance-level visibility, prioritisation and assurance of AUT's critical risks and critical controls.
5. AUT risk matrix	Each risk was assessed on an inherent basis using the AUT consequence and likelihood scales, before considering whether controls are present or effective.	The register provides a consistent pre-control baseline and a starting point for validation.
6. Internal stakeholder consultation	The proposed list was discussed and circulated with internal leaders and subject matter stakeholders, including ELT members, and was refined in response to feedback on AUT exposure, existing programmes and current work underway.	This improved local relevance and informed the initial validation wave allocations. Further consultation remains necessary during the deep-dive phase.

Current Position:

AUT has identified an initial set of critical health and safety risks and assigned inherent risk ratings. The ratings represent the risk before controls are considered. They do not confirm what controls currently exist, whether those controls reflect legal requirements or good practice, or whether they are effective in practice.

All risks are currently rated extreme on an inherent basis because each has a credible catastrophic harm pathway. This is expected for a critical risk register and does not mean that all risks have the same exposure, urgency, control maturity, or implementation complexity.

The register will be a living document. It will be updated as AUT confirms where each risk exists, identifies and tests controls, assigns governance and operational accountabilities, determines residual risk, closes corrective actions, and completes ongoing assurance.

Key Issues and Discussion:**Consequence, Likelihood and Risk Matrix**



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The AUT assessment method uses a consequence scale, likelihood scale and risk matrix. The current register records inherent risk only: the rating is assigned before considering the presence or effectiveness of controls.

Figure 1: Consequence Scale



Figure 2: Likelihood Scale



Figure 3: Risk Rating Matrix



Point	Explanation
Score calculation	Inherent score is calculated as Likelihood x Consequence. Example: 4 x 5 = 20.
Matrix rating	The qualitative rating is taken from the AUT matrix. Example: Likely (4) x Severe (5) = Extreme (20).
Consequence weighting	The matrix is consequence-weighted, so a low-likelihood catastrophic risk remains visible at governance level.
Use at this stage	The ratings do not yet reflect control effectiveness. Residual risk will be determined only after controls have been validated.

What the Validation Phase Must Establish:

The next analytical task is not to re-score the inherent risks. It is to establish AUT's actual control position for each risk. Each deep dive will need to determine:



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- where and how AUT is exposed to the risk;
- which controls are currently in place and who operates them;
- whether the controls meet legal requirements and relevant good practice;
- which controls are critical to preventing or limiting catastrophic harm;
- whether those controls are adequately designed, consistently implemented and effective;
- what evidence is available to verify control performance; and
- what corrective actions, residual risk rating and assurance programme are required.

Validation Waves and Prioritisation:

The validation waves are a next steps planning tool. They do not represent differences in risk severity: all listed risks are inherently rated extreme. The waves provide a practical starting sequence for stakeholder mapping, control deep dives and assurance design.

AUT cannot credibly deep dive every risk at the same time using existing internal capacity alone. Each review may involve multiple faculties and directorates, technical specialists, site visits, document and evidence reviews, control testing, consultation, and potentially a substantial volume of corrective actions. Attempting all risks simultaneously would risk superficial analysis, overwhelm operational areas with change, and create more actions than AUT could effectively prioritise and close.

The sequencing criteria were inherent score, exposure profile, frequency of activity, regulatory focus, control complexity, cross-organisational impact, known AUT priorities, existing improvement programmes, and other reviews already underway. Wave allocations may change as stakeholder mapping improves the evidence base.

Wave 1 - Initial Priority

Critical risk	Inherent score	Reason for sequencing	Proposed deep-dive lead
Plant, Machinery, and Workshop Operations	20	Exposure across workshops, makerspaces, laboratories and facilities; high-consequence entanglement, crush and amputation pathways; reliance on guarding, isolation, maintenance, authorisation and supervision.	Hybrid: H&S Team with technical specialist support as required
Electrical Hazards and High-Energy Systems	20	Cross-campus exposure through infrastructure, laboratories, workshops, events, maintenance and contractors; specialist technical controls and high-consequence electrocution, arc-flash, fire and explosion pathways.	External technical specialist with H&S Team oversight
Construction and Contractor Management	20	Frequent capital and maintenance activity, occupied-campus interfaces, overlapping PCBU duties and multiple high-risk work types; early validation will also inform work at height and other contractor-dependent risks.	Hybrid: H&S Team, Estates/project stakeholders and targeted external support



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Critical risk	Inherent score	Reason for sequencing	Proposed deep-dive lead
Psychosocial Hazards and Mental Health	20	Whole-of-organisation exposure, including work design, workload, bullying and harassment, fatigue, traumatic exposure and change; requires broad consultation and system-level controls.	Hybrid: H&S Team and People & Culture, with external expertise where needed
Fieldwork, Remote and Isolated Off-Campus Activities	20	Identified internally as a high-priority AUT risk; exposure is dispersed across faculties and locations, and delayed emergency response can increase consequence. Early mapping is needed to establish the full activity profile.	H&S Team led, with specialist input for particular activities

Wave 2 - Specialist Priority

Critical risk	Inherent score	Reason for sequencing	Proposed deep-dive lead
Biological Hazards, Pathogens, and Infectious Agents	15	High consequence but concentrated in specialist laboratories, clinical teaching, human tissue, animal and sampling activities; requires containment and biosafety expertise.	Hybrid: H&S Team and biosafety subject matter experts
Radiation Safety (Ionising and Non-Ionising/Lasers)	15	Specialist, controlled environments with specific authorisation, shielding, interlock, dosimetry and laser-control requirements.	External/radiation specialist with H&S Team oversight
Confined Spaces and Asphyxiating Atmospheres	15	Catastrophic potential, including multiple fatalities, but exposure is generally limited to specific plant, pits, tanks, ducts and service voids; rescue capability is a key consideration.	External technical specialist with H&S Team and Estates
Aquatic, Diving, and Boating Operations	15	Specialist and activity-specific exposure requiring competence, emergency planning, equipment controls and operational protocols.	External specialist with H&S Team oversight
Pressurised Systems and Stored Energy	15	Narrower technical exposure involving pressure vessels, autoclaves, boilers, compressed gases and stored mechanical energy; requires engineering and certification expertise.	External technical specialist with H&S Team oversight



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Wave 3 - Evidence-Leveraging Priority

Critical risk	Inherent score	Reason for sequencing	Proposed deep-dive lead
Hazardous Substances and Chemical Management	20	Broad exposure and complex controls, but the Te Ara Haumaru programme has already supported improvement work and should provide a stronger starting evidence base. Sequencing later allows AUT to leverage and verify that work rather than duplicate it.	H&S Team led, using Te Ara Haumaru evidence and targeted specialist input
Vehicles, Road Transport, and Campus Traffic Management	20	Broad exposure, but a current AUT Transport Audit is expected to provide university-wide information on the risk and existing arrangements. The deep dive can build on those findings.	Hybrid: H&S Team using Transport Audit findings and external input as needed
Work at Heights	20	High inherent risk, but significant exposure and control information should be captured through the earlier construction, contractor and facilities reviews. It can be brought forward if mapping identifies material non-construction exposure.	Hybrid: H&S Team with external height-safety expertise as required
Chronic Health Exposure (Asbestos, Silica, and Noise)	20	Severe, long-latency outcomes; validation will rely on asset data, asbestos registers, contractor controls, exposure monitoring and specialist occupational hygiene evidence.	External occupational hygiene/technical specialists with H&S Team oversight

Options and Proposed Approach:

Option	Description	Advantages	Limitations	Assessment
Option 1 - Sequential internal delivery	The H&S Team completes each wave largely in sequence using internal resources.	Lower external cost and strong internal ownership.	Likely to be slow; competes with existing priorities; may delay visibility of control gaps; risks a multi-year programme.	Not recommended as the sole delivery model.
Option 2 - Hybrid, overlapping delivery	The H&S Team leads stakeholder mapping, governance and integration, while targeted external specialists undertake technical deep dives. Waves can overlap once scoped.	Faster progress; access to specialist capability; spreads workload; allows AUT to test several risks in parallel.	Requires budget, procurement and clear coordination; external findings still require internal ownership and action.	Recommended.



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Option	Description	Advantages	Limitations	Assessment
Option 3 - Predominantly external review	An external provider undertakes most deep dives across the register.	Potentially fastest initial review and independent challenge.	Higher cost; weaker internal capability transfer; risk of generic outputs or operational disengagement.	Use selectively, not as the default model.

The recommended approach is a hybrid programme with overlapping workstreams. This retains H&S Team ownership of the overall framework while using external expertise where technical independence, specialist competence or additional capacity is needed.

ELT feedback is sought on the desired pace of delivery and the appetite for targeted external support. The H&S Team will then develop a scoped delivery and resourcing proposal, with programme timeframes set after stakeholder mapping and confirmation of the delivery model.

Implications:

Implication	What it means for AUT
Operational accountability	Operational responsibility remains with the relevant faculty, directorate, department, manager, technical role or control owner. These roles implement and maintain controls and complete corrective actions.
H&S Team capacity	The H&S Team can coordinate stakeholder mapping, methodology, facilitation, register maintenance and assurance design. It is unlikely to have the capacity or all specialist competencies required to complete every technical deep dive concurrently.
External resource	Targeted external resource may be necessary to accelerate delivery, provide specialist technical competence, and enable overlapping validation. Funding and procurement implications will need to be confirmed.
Change capacity	Validation may identify a significant volume of control gaps and corrective actions. The pace of deep dives must be matched to AUT's ability to prioritise, fund, implement and verify sustainable improvements.
Governance reporting	The live register should progressively report validated exposure, control status, residual risk, overdue corrective actions and assurance results. Reporting should distinguish between work completed, work underway and unvalidated assumptions.

Next Steps:

The H&S Team will coordinate the next steps below, with operational and specialist support as required. ELT input at this meeting is sought on the desired pace of delivery and appetite for targeted external support, rather than approval of each individual action.



AGENDA ITEM

8.1

Step	Action	Lead / owner
Confirm ELT feedback	Record feedback on the risk list, wave sequencing, desired programme pace, delivery model and any risks requiring earlier attention.	H&S Team
Complete stakeholder mapping	Identify affected faculties, directorates, locations, activities, local owners, subject matter experts and existing assessments for each critical risk.	H&S Team, with faculties and directorates
Determine Executive oversight allocation	Discuss and propose the allocation of Executive oversight. Executive ownership is a governance role focused on sponsorship, oversight, strategic direction, constructive challenge, decision-making, escalation, assurance monitoring and removal of organisational barriers. It does not require the Executive owner to conduct inspections, test controls or manage day-to-day operational controls. Allocation does not need to align with existing operational portfolios and may intentionally differ to strengthen independent oversight. Any preferences expressed by Executive members will be considered.	VC and AVC P&C, supported by the H&S Team
Confirm delivery model and resources	The H&S Team will scope and recommend which deep dives should be internally led, externally led or hybrid, informed by ELT feedback on delivery pace and external support. Budget, procurement and operational support requirements will then be confirmed through the appropriate approval processes.	H&S Team
Set programme timeframes	Establish realistic, overlapping programme timeframes after stakeholder mapping and confirmation of the delivery model and resources.	H&S Team
Publish the initial register on TUIA	Publish the approved initial register on TUIA, clearly identified as an inherent risk register that is being progressively validated, by the end of 2026 or earlier if governance approval and content readiness allow.	H&S Team
Undertake risk deep dives	Validate exposure scenarios, identify critical controls, compare them with legal requirements and good practice, and assess control design and operating effectiveness.	H&S Team, assigned external specialists and operational stakeholders
Determine residual risk and corrective actions	Assign residual ratings based on validated controls, agree corrective actions, allocate operational owners and establish escalation requirements.	H&S Team with operational risk and control owners
Implement assurance and continuous improvement	Establish control verification, governance reporting and periodic revalidation; update the live register as conditions, evidence and controls change.	H&S Team with Executive and operational owners



AGENDA ITEM	8.1
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Next Steps:

- Note the basis used to develop the initial AUT H&S Critical Risk Register and that the current ratings are inherent, pre-control ratings;
- Provide feedback on the proposed validation waves, the facts used to sequence the risks, and any risks that should receive earlier attention;
- Support further scoping of the recommended hybrid, overlapping validation approach, including targeted external specialist resource;
- Support progression to stakeholder mapping and detailed planning for the validation programme, coordinated by the H&S Team; and
- Note that VC & AVC P&C will meet separately to discuss allocation of Executive oversight. Executive oversight need not align with current operational portfolios and may intentionally be allocated differently to strengthen independent challenge.

Executive members who have a preference for a particular critical risk are asked to email Andrea after the meeting so that this can be considered in those discussions.



9. Appendix Two

COUNCIL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR: HSW RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

1. Purpose

To define the health, safety and wellbeing due diligence responsibilities of each AUT Council member and the Vice-Chancellor in their capacity as officers of the University under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA).

This statement forms part of Component 3 – Roles and Responsibilities of the AUT Health, Safety & Wellbeing Management Framework. It sets out the HSW responsibilities applying to this role and should be read alongside the AUT HSW Policy, The Way We Work Safely at AUT, and the relevant HSW protocols, systems, guidance and tools.

2. Scope

This statement applies individually to every Council member and to the Vice-Chancellor. Council processes support the exercise of due diligence, but the statutory duty belongs to each officer and is not transferred by delegation or collective decision-making.

3. Key terms and legal position

Primary legal basis: HSWA sections 18, 22, 31 and 44.

Term	Meaning for this statement
University / PCBU	Auckland University of Technology (AUT), as the person conducting the University's business or undertaking.
Officer	For this statement, each Council member and the Vice-Chancellor. Under HSWA, this includes a person in a position comparable with a company director and a person able to exercise significant influence over management, such as a chief executive.
Due diligence	The officer's personal duty to take reasonable steps to ensure AUT complies with its duties and obligations under HSWA.
Reasonably practicable	What was reasonably able to be done at the time after weighing likelihood, possible harm, knowledge of the risk and controls, availability and suitability of controls, and whether cost is grossly disproportionate to the risk.

4. Responsibilities

Each Council member and the Vice-Chancellor must exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonable officer would exercise in the same circumstances. This includes taking reasonable steps to:

- Acquire and keep up-to-date knowledge of work health and safety matters relevant to AUT and its risk profile.



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- Understand the nature of AUT's operations and the hazards and risks associated with them, including physical, psychosocial, critical and emerging risks.
- Ensure AUT has available for use, and uses, appropriate people, funding, systems and other resources and processes to eliminate or minimise work health and safety risks so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Ensure AUT has effective processes for receiving and considering information about incidents, hazards and risks, and for responding to that information in a timely way.
- Ensure AUT has and implements processes for complying with every applicable HSWA duty and obligation, including risk management, staff engagement and participation, training and supervision, monitoring, coordination with other PCBUs, and notifiable-event requirements.
- Verify, through reliable information, enquiry and assurance, that the required resources and processes have been provided, are being used and are effective; follow up material gaps until effective corrective action is completed.

In practice, Council members apply these responsibilities through governance decisions, constructive challenge and oversight. The Vice-Chancellor applies them through executive leadership, allocation of authority and resources, and accountability for operational delivery. Reports may be relied on only to the extent that reliance is reasonable in the circumstances.

5. Evidence and records

Evidence may include officer briefings and development, Council and committee papers and minutes, strategic and resourcing decisions, risk and performance reports, assurance results, records of challenge and enquiry, and tracked responses to material issues. Existing authoritative records should be used wherever suitable; this statement does not require duplicate records.

6. Document control

Field	Details
Document Title	Council and Vice-Chancellor HSW Responsibilities Statement
Document Code	HSW-RAS-001
Version	1.0
Status	Approved
Document Owner	Director, Health and Safety
Author	Senior Health and Safety Specialist
Approval Authority	Director, Health and Safety
Approval Date	03/09/2026
Review	Before 1 April 2027 for legislative change; otherwise 3-yearly and as required



PART A	10.1
OPEN	
AGENDA ITEM	

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: **DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR RESEARCH - UPDATE REPORT**

Date: **18 September 2026**

RECOMMENDATION: *THAT THE UPDATE REPORT FROM THE DVC RESEARCH BE RECEIVED*

Background

The detailed changes resulting from the University Advisory Group (UAG) and Science System Advisory Group (SSAG) are now being determined and implementation is beginning. These changes are the most substantive in the past three decades and the implications for the university sector (and wider science, technology and innovation sector) are significant. A set of slides are appended to this Council paper which summarise these changes.

The initiatives set out in Rautaki Rangahau (AUT's Research Plan 2023-2028) continue to be successful in building our research culture, productivity and maturity (the key initiatives are summarised in this paper). However, given the substantial changes occurring in our sector with regard to research, it is timely to review Rautaki Rangahau in order to consider our responses to these changes. This review will be undertaken in the final quarter of 2026.

Key initiatives implemented from Rautaki Rangahau (AUT's Research Plan 2023-2028)

1. Research Entities Framework

- The repositioning of AUT's diverse range of over 70 research entities (centres, institutes, groups, labs, clinics, networks, clusters ...) into a coherent set of entities in a framework of four tiers has facilitated a more consistent and strategic approach to our research focus areas.
- There four tiers are:
 - Tier 4: AUT Research Networks (university wide, transdisciplinary priority research themes).
 - Tier 3: AUT Research Institutes (faculty level key research focus areas)
 - Tier 2: AUT Research Centres (school level areas of research focus)
 - Tier 1: Research Groups (school and department level aggregations of staff with an agreed area of research attention)

- 2025 was a year of bringing our existing research entities into alignment (including disestablishing some, re-positioning others, and establishing the five new AUT Research Networks). This work is now completed.

2. *Establishing a Researcher Education and Development Unit (RED Unit)*

- In order to provide professional development support for AUT's research community (including postgraduate research students) a dedicated team to develop and provide professional development (PD) for the AUT research community (including postgraduate research students) has been established.
- The RED Unit offers a range of PD resources and opportunities including:
 - 12 Weeks to Research Active course (for staff who need to start/re-start research)
 - Guidelines and support on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in research
 - Understanding Te Tiriti o Waitangi led research
 - Research methods and data analysis training
 - External research funding
 - "Embed RED": Bespoke professional development for schools and specific disciplines
 - Postgraduate research supervision practice
 - Induction for new staff and PGR students
 - Annual PGR Student Symposium and "Mix-n-Mingle" Events, 3MT competition...
 - Running AUT Research Week
- Developed and published Pacific Research Strategy and Pacific Research Guidelines (completed by Moanaroa Pacific Research Network) and Māori Research Strategy and Māori Research Guidelines (draft completed by Te Ranga Tukutuku: Māori Research Network).

3. *AUT Research Week*

- An annual week of engagement of the university community in sharing, learning about and celebrating research. Held in the 2nd semester mid-semester break (usually September).
- The fourth edition was held 30 August to 4 September 2026 and it was the most well attended to date:
 - 18 events
 - 405 presenters
 - 2436 registrations
 - 1604 attendances (an increase of over 20% from 2025)

4. *Establishment of two new dedicated scholarships to support priority areas:*

- Eke Tangaroa Doctoral Scholarships (approx. 3-4 new p.a.): To support Eke Tangaroa kaihoe to recruit a high-quality doctoral student to support them into their first doctoral supervision.
- Te Aronui Postgraduate Scholarship (5-10 new p.a.): To support Māori students at research masters and doctoral level.

5. *Support for growing external research funding:*

- Established a weekly newsletter which outlines upcoming funding opportunities.
- Established two internal support funds:
 - External Research Income Support Grant
 - Engagement and Translation Support Grant
- Contracted expert external reviewers for grant applications to improve quality
- Professional development for research staff engaging in ERI opportunities
- Horizons Europe training and support

6. *Building the profile and contributions of AUT Ventures:*

- Employed new engagement focused staff member
- Profile as part of AUT Research Week organising the AUT Innovation Showcase
- New website, newsletter and Tuia presence
- AUT Innovation Fund and grants to support entrepreneurship and research commercialisation
- Idea2Impact course
- Establishment of AUT Solutions to promote, grow and facilitate staff consulting work

7. *Research Ethics Transformation Project*

- Redesigned and simplified application forms
- Developed guidelines and professional development modules
- Appointed new positions to build team capacity;
 - Senior Research Ethics Manager
 - Senior Research Ethics Consultants (x2)
 - Research Ethics Education Specialist
- Established new Health Research Ethics Forum process
- New AI facilitated application process under development

8. *Established a new Research Data Repository and greater focus on research security*

- New Research Data Repository is now live (hosted by Te Mātapuna – AUT Library).
- Two new staff supporting researchers to engage with the Repository.
- Meets a number of external requirements (including external funders).
- Addresses concerns about research data sovereignty and security.
- Appointed a specialist research security specialist and established protocols to undertake appropriate due diligence on international collaborations and research projects with protective security risks.

9. *Established a Research Expectations Framework*

- This framework, for the first-time, establishes specific expectations for research contributions relevant to fields of research (disciplines).
- The Framework will be used as part of the re-vamped My Annual Plan (MAP) performance appraisal process in order to set clear, explicit expectations for staff on research contributions.
- The Framework will be used as a mechanism to agree on a plan for the staff member to meet these expectations, including professional development priorities.

10. *Established new KPIs for research (see Appendix B)*

- KPIs derived from key strategic objectives to:
 - Increase the proportion of research active academic staff
 - Increase proportion of academic staff involved in postgraduate research supervision
 - Increase the number of externally funded research projects
 - Increase the quantity of research funding received from external sources
 - Increase the number of quality assured research outputs (especially publications)
 - Increase the proportion of research outputs with UN Sustainable Development Goals related topics
- These KPIs are being “cascaded” to faculties and academic schools to set targets for 2027 onwards.

Key Challenges

1. External research income decreasing (see Appendix A)

- AUT recorded solid growth in external research income (ERI) from 2017 to 2024. However, we recorded a substantial decrease in 2025 and will also have a further decrease in 2026.
- AUT's Academic and Capital Plan is based on projections of an increase in ERI.
- The factors driving the decrease in ERI are changes in the external environment. AUT is putting in record numbers of applications, but success rates are dropping substantially due to:
 - Cancellation of a number of contracts and funding opportunities in the USA due to changes in US government priorities
 - Cancellation of the 2026 MBIE Endeavour Fund round
 - Cancellation of the Marsden Fund Social Sciences and Humanities Panel
 - Capping of number of applications into the MBIE Smart Ideas Fund
 - Capping of the number of applications into the new Research Funding NZ Transition Research Fund (see Appendix C)
 - Reduction in funding available via the Health Research Council
 - Changing of emphasis for government funded research to prioritise research with potential commercial outcomes

Actions underway to address this challenge

- Establishment of AUT Solutions to increase research consultancy revenue.
- Supporting opportunities to be successful with international research funding opportunities (e.g. Horizons Europe, Australian Research Council, philanthropic research support such as the Wellcome Leap Foundation).
- Re-structure of the University Research Office to better support staff in applying for contestable research grants under the new Research Funding NZ regime.
- Advocating for new academic appointments to prioritise applicants with a strong ERI record (or potential).
- Lobbying key government decision-makers, including the Minister, to reconsider the caps placed on the maximum number of applications permitted by AUT.
- Developing partnerships with key external funders/supported for research (e.g. Abbott's support for the AUT Women's Health and Neuroscience Research Program).
- Initial scoping work for a potential Centre of Research Excellence application underway (next round is late 2027).
- Dedicated professional development and mentors to build capability for success in ERI.
- Contracted grant writers to support shortlisted applicants to maximise potential of success in the Transition Research Fund 2027 round.
- Partnering with other applicants for key funding opportunities for hosting "research platforms" e.g. NZ Institute for Advanced Technologies.

2. Transition from PBRF to TREF

- Total fund available \$315m p.a. unchanged for past decade.
- Fund proportion available to universities decreased due to 2.5% being tagged for non-university Tertiary Education Organisations.
- 7.5% of fund now allocated via a Commercialisation Outcomes Measurement Framework which allocates to the organisation that commercialises the IP and not the organisation that created the IP.

- 30% of the fund allocated via a Field-Weighted Citation Measure. Details are tbc, but AUT is vulnerable to key decisions re the database used, decisions on massive multi authored publications and non-inclusion of creative-practice based research and other research not in publications captured by data-bases.
- Many of the key detailed decisions are yet to be made, and these decisions matter with regard to the potential financial outcomes for AUT.

Actions underway to address this challenge

- Modelling of potential options and the outcomes for AUT.
- Consistent engagement with TEC and MBIE to have influence of key decisions on the implantation of the TREF.
- Dedicated staff (1.0 specialist and 0.4 FTE of a senior academic) to help understand and input into this decision-making process.

3. New Intellectual Property Policy

- The government's new IP policy requires universities to give the rights to commercialise IP to the creators of that IP.
- The Commercialisation Outcomes Measurement Framework being implemented as part of the TREF rewards the university that commercialises the research, not the university which has supported its creation. This sets up a scenario whereby a university could seek to recruit a commercialisation opportunity created at another university (because the creator has the rights to commercialise the research). More specifically, the risk is that the deep pockets of UniServices and the University of Auckland's commercialisation office could recruit AUT research commercialisation opportunities and UofA would benefit from these.

Actions underway to address this challenge

- AUT Ventures and the AUT Innovation Fund will be key in ensuring that AUT Ventures remains the easiest and most attractive agency to commercialise research.
- We are building the profile of AUT Ventures and the broader understanding of research commercialisation pathways for staff and postgraduate research students.

4. Persistent issue with a cohort of academic staff who are not research active (see Appendix B)

- AUT has, for its entire time as a university, had a cohort of academic staff who are not active in research. There are a variety of reasons for this, and it is providing difficult to move the residual cohort (about 25%) into research activity.

Actions underway to address this challenge

- 12 Weeks to Research Active course is offered twice a year.
- The Research Expectations Framework provides (for the first time) explicit guidance for researchers on where they should focus their research efforts.
- The new My Annual Plan process prompts discussion between academic staff and their line managers on research expectations.
- Deans and HoS are being encouraged to when recruiting new academic staff to prioritise research productivity in their selections.
- Deans and HoS are being encouraged to actively use the "Teaching Pathway" employment option under the Academic Collective Employment Agreement for those staff who are not research active and unlikely to become so.

5. Review of domestic tuition fee scheme for international PhD students

- The NZ Government Budget release on 28 May stated that funding for international PhD students at universities will be capped in 2027 to allow the Government to consider a new funding model for international PhD students. In her post-Budget briefing, Minister Simmons stated that they will be capped at 2024 funded levels.
- AUT has had a substantive increase in international PhD student enrolments since 2024. The capping of funding at 2024 levels means there will be a substantial number of international PhD students enrolled at AUT in 2027 for which we will not receive any DQ funding (equating to around \$2.5m). Note that we will continue to receive their domestic tuition fee revenue.
- There is uncertainty regarding what the “new funding model” will be. However, the Minister has written to Universities New Zealand with an assurance that student’s enrolled (or with an offer of place) prior to 1 January 2028 will continue to pay only domestic tuition fees. This letter implies, but does not specifically state, that universities will receive government (DQ10) funding for these students.

Actions underway to address this challenge

- We are applying our admissions criteria much more strictly to manage the growing number of applications (~5,000 in 2025 and estimated ~8,000 in 2026).
- We are applying the maximum number of supervisions permitted under the Academic Collective Employment Agreement more stringently than we have in the past (maximum of 5 at doctoral level and 9 PGR supervisions in total).
- We are engaging with the review of the scheme via Universities New Zealand.
- We are carefully communicating to reassure international PhD students and their supervisors about the changes.

Summary

AUT has made good progress over the past four years in continuing to build our research culture, productivity and contributions. There are, however, some significant “head-winds” that have resulted from recent changes arising from the UAG and SSAG reviews that we are having to navigate. These changes have prompted us to bring forward our scheduled revision of our Research Plan (2028) and, potentially, we may need to review our targets/expectations with regard to external research income.

Appendix A: External Research Income Results 2017 - 2025

ERI TEC Submission (Source: TechOne)					
	NZ Government Contestable (\$)	NZ Non-Government (\$)	NZ Public Sector (\$)	Overseas (\$)	Total (\$)
2017 Unweighted	6,292,624.49	2,154,977.37	2,328,146.21	683,100.96	11,458,849.03
Weighted	6,292,624.49	4,309,954.74	2,328,146.21	1,024,651.44	13,955,376.88
2018 Unweighted	9,236,190.77	1,172,121.13	3,803,682.01	877,137.52	15,089,131.43
Weighted	9,236,190.77	2,344,242.26	3,803,682.01	1,315,706.28	16,699,821.32
2019 Unweighted	10,211,710.32	1,245,065.74	3,464,734.56	484,738.87	15,406,249.49
Weighted	10,211,710.32	2,490,131.48	3,464,734.56	727,108.31	16,893,684.67
2020 Unweighted	11,113,788.50	1,245,497.81	2,814,469.16	562,207.39	15,735,962.86
Weighted	11,113,788.50	2,490,995.62	2,814,469.16	843,311.09	17,262,564.37
2021*^ Unweighted	14,877,971.51	1,054,580.55	2,198,466.58	793,263.90	18,924,282.54
Weighted	14,877,971.51	2,109,161.10	2,198,466.58	1,189,895.85	20,375,495.04
2022*^ Unweighted	16,396,163.03	967,165.92	2,811,532.70	1,026,338.46	21,201,200.11
Weighted	16,396,163.03	3,868,663.68	2,811,532.70	3,592,184.61	26,668,544.02
2023* Unweighted	17,987,115.97	960,609.24	2,441,798.21	1,318,086.85	22,707,610.27
Weighted	17,987,115.97	3,842,436.96	2,441,798.21	4,613,303.98	28,884,655.12
2024* Unweighted	20,844,354	888,928	2,407,886	2,103,870	26,245,038.00
Weighted	20,844,354	3,555,711	2,407,886	7,363,545	34,171,495.00
2025* Unweighted					22,507,277.00

Notes:

Unweighted means that ERI is not weighted according to TEC guidelines

* = after Bad Debt adjustment

^ = after Audit adjustment

Appendix B: AUT's Research KPIs 2025 – 2030

KPI	KPI name	Responsible	Year end 2024	Year end 2025	Target 2030	Definition
1	Eligible academic staff who are research active	DVCR	61%	74%	85%	This KPI measures the count of academic staff who have published at least two QAed + verified outputs within Year N and Year N-1. Staff on the teaching pathway are excluded, along with teaching/research assistants, midwives, clinical educators, research officers, senior research officers, and non-faculty-based academic staff as producing research outputs/publications is not an explicit expectation of their role.
2	Eligible academic staff who are research supervisors	DVCR	Not measured	70%	85%	This KPI is a count of eligible academic staff who have supervised at least one postgraduate research student (a dissertation or thesis of 60+ points) in the year to date selected, as a proportion of all eligible academic staff with research expectations (same denominator as that used for KPI 1).
3	Number of quality-assured research outputs	DVCR	1,986	2,144	2,500	This KPI measures the total number of verified and quality assured research outputs registered in Research Elements. This represents a two-year rolling average of outputs in Year N and Year N-1.
4	Number of active research contracts	DVCR	337	317	400	This KPI counts the number of externally funded active research projects (during the reporting year) across the University.
5	Total external research income earned	DVCR	\$26.25M	\$22.5M	\$50M	This KPI reports ERI earned (based on invoices raised during the reporting year).
6	Research outputs that contribute to a UN SDG	DVCR	34%	36%	40%	Results for this KPI are sourced from Dimensions, AUT's bibliometric software provider. Dimensions has an independent methodology for assigning SDGs to research outputs based on keywords associated with the research output aligning with one or more SDG.
7	Media articles featuring AUT research	DVCR/AUT Comms	1404	1473	Annual growth	Results are drawn from MediaWatch reporting on media articles affiliated with AUT research.

Appendix C: Research Funding New Zealand Transition Research Fund: Maximum Number of Applications Allowed per Institution

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Funding mechanism</i>		
	<i>Talent Development</i>	<i>Projects</i>	<i>Programmes</i>
Auckland University of Technology	6	5	3
<i>Bioeconomy Science Institute</i>	8	22	8
<i>Cawthron Institute</i>	6	7	5
<i>Earth Sciences NZ</i>	17	24	18
<i>Lincoln Agritech</i>	3	3	3
<i>Lincoln University</i>	3	3	3
<i>Malaghan Institute</i>	4	3	3
<i>Massey University</i>	6	14	7
<i>PHF Science</i>	3	3	3
<i>University of Auckland</i>	58	61	13
<i>University of Canterbury</i>	33	27	8
<i>University of Otago</i>	41	44	12
<i>University of Waikato</i>	14	21	3
<i>Victoria University of Wellington</i>	43	30	8
<i>Any other organisations</i>	3	3	3



PART A

OPEN AGENDA ITEM

13.1

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Update from the President of AUTSA – James Portegys

Date: 28th September 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AUTSA

Council Report: Turnitin's Proposed EULA Changes and Student Data Sovereignty

Purpose

To initiate a discussion with Council regarding Turnitin's proposed overseas changes to its End User Licence Agreement (EULA) and the broader implications for student data sovereignty, privacy and intellectual property.

Background

Overseas, the University of Southampton has announced that it will phase out Turnitin, citing concerns surrounding student data, intellectual property and proposed changes to Turnitin's EULA.

The University acknowledged that Turnitin had paused its proposed changes for the upcoming 2026/27 academic year. However, the proposed changes raised important questions about the potential use of student submissions to train and develop artificial intelligence models.

While these changes have been postponed overseas, it raises questions about whether similar provisions may be introduced within the New Zealand tertiary education context and what implications these may have for AUT students.

Student Perspectives and Considerations for AUT

This issue speaks to a growing discourse among students about how their data is collected, stored and used, particularly as artificial intelligence becomes increasingly integrated into their academic experience and the external software platforms they use throughout their studies.

Students are often required to use third-party platforms to complete their academic assessments, raising questions about how much data they provide, whether they fully understand how that information may be used and the extent to which they have control over their own data.

From a student perspective, there is an important distinction between submitting academic work for assessment and consenting to that work being used to develop commercial AI products.

As New Zealand's university of technology, I believe AUT is well placed to contribute to this conversation and explore how technological innovation can be balanced with the protection of student data, intellectual property and informed consent.

Discussion

As the student representative on Council, I would be interested to understand whether AUT has received any indication that similar EULA changes may be proposed within the New Zealand context and what considerations would inform the University's response if student submissions were to be used to train or develop AI models.

More broadly, I would welcome Council's thoughts on how AUT approaches the collection and use of student data by external software providers, particularly where students are required to use these platforms as part of their studies.

I raise this matter as a conversation starter about the place of student data within our university context, the extent to which students understand and consent to its use, and how AUT can continue to embrace technological innovation while protecting students' rights and interests.

Sources

<https://elearn.soton.ac.uk/knowledge-base/turnitin-announcement-of-moving-away-from-turnitin/>

<https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/26558627.southampton-phase-turnitin-data-ai-concerns/>



PART A

OPEN AGENDA ITEM

13.2

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Update from the Council Member Elected by Academic Staff – Welby Ings

Date: 17 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTED BY THE ACADEMIC STAFF OF THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

THE RISE OF HALLUCINATED RESEARCH

AUT's academic community is currently facing a situation where peer reviewed, academic papers entering the scholarly domain contain increasing numbers of fake references that have been hallucinated (invented) by AI.

The integrity of scholarly communication relies on the accuracy and verifiability of cited references. These enable us to trace prior work, assess evidence, and situate new contributions within the existing literature. However, a growing body of research documents the presence of references in published papers that cannot be connected to any identifiable source. This is happening because Large Language Models are creating realistic author names, matching publication years, and plausible titles that easily deceive human reviewers.¹

Recent research (co-authored by Ulrich Speidel from the University of Auckland) examined more than 3000 peer-reviewed papers and found that 69 of these, contained fake references.² The study also found that the online academic database Google Scholar had fallen victim to the problem.³ The phenomenon is called 'citation laundering'. It describes instances where a peer-reviewed paper publishes a fake AI

¹ See: Whitford, E. (March 2026). Journal Submissions Riddled With AI-Created Fake Citations. *Inside Higher Education*. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty/books-publishing/2026/03/06/journal-submissions-riddled-ai-created-fake-citations>

² See: Han, C., Manoharan, S., Ye, X., & Speidel, U. (2026). Phantom citations: An empirical study of non-existent and unverifiable references in scholarly literature. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 1–30. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.70104>
An approach to addressing the issue is discussed here: Topaz, M. et al. (2026). [Fabricated citations: An audit across 2.5 million biomedical papers](https://www.thescientist.com/one-in-277-biomedical-papers-carry-fake-references-74480). *Lancet*. The material is summarised here: <https://www.thescientist.com/one-in-277-biomedical-papers-carry-fake-references-74480>

³ See: Haider, J., Söderström, K. R., Ekström, B., & Rödl, M. (2024). GPT-fabricated scientific papers on Google Scholar: Key features, spread, and implications for preempting evidence manipulation. *Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review*. <https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-156>

citation, then online academic indexing databases (like Google Scholar) scrape the data and automatically add the fake paper to their repositories. This can result in future researchers (and other AI models) locating the fake source inside a hitherto trusted online search engine. Believing it to be real, they continue to cite it.

The impact of hallucination in research is widespread.⁴ Indicative is the current Taylor & Francis's investigation into an article/editorial in one of its journals that, out of the 31 references cited, at least nine were non-existent articles or contained incorrect journals or inaccurate author names.⁵ The references were attributed to genuine scholars who didn't write the articles or to real journal titles associated with the wrong authors.

The issue reaches beyond the academy. Examples include the consulting firm Deloitte being required to pay back \$440,000 (in 2025) to the Australian government when a report they produced was found to contain hallucinated references.⁶

RECOMMENDATION

Stronger safeguards are required in addition to greater awareness of responsible AI use from researchers. Safeguards may include mandatory publisher-level database checks and full-text source deposits. There are also implications for learning and teaching because what has hitherto been accepted as robust (reviewed) scholarship, now needs to be treated with higher levels of academic caution.

⁴ See: The NeurIPS "100+ Fake Citations" Scandal (2026); Maxim Topaz's Institutional Failures & Steep Rises in Biomedical Retraction study published in *The Lancet*; the highly ranked Elsevier journal - *Construction and Building Materials* - being forced to retract a paper after it was exposed for using AI to generate 38 fake citations; and in April 2026, the South African government pulling a major draft policy framework on artificial intelligence after it was shown to be a product of AI fabrication. (When academics inspected its bibliography, out of 67 listed academic references, dozens were shown to not exist or refer to prestigious journals that had never published the articles).

⁵ See: Christou, A., Raby, R. L., & Lambert, S. (2026). The examined institution: Academic freedom, freedom of thought, and the politics of knowledge. *Journal of Further and Higher Education*, 50(7), 1133–1141. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0309877X.2026.2664329>

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/oct/06/deloitte-to-pay-money-back-to-albanese-government-after-using-ai-in-440000-report>



PART A OPEN AGENDA ITEM	13.3
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Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Update from the Council Member Elected by Professional Staff – Lani Thomson

Date: September 28th, 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTED BY THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



PART A	
OPEN AGENDA ITEM	13.4

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: **Sustainability Update**

Date: **17th September, 2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE SEPTEMBER 2026 SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE.

REPORT BY: LUCY MCKENZIE, HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY, STRATEGY AND PLANNING

Background / Executive Summary

This paper provides an update regarding the following:

- Te Ara Mauri Ora - AUT's Draft Regenerative Action and Sustainability Plan;
- AUT's 2025 Sustainability Report
- Draft AUT Climate Scenarios;
- Australasian Green Gown Awards

Te Ara Mauri Ora - AUT's Draft Regenerative Action and Sustainability Plan

Te Ara Mauri Ora focuses on a transition from sustainability (sustaining what we are currently doing into the future) to regenerative action (restoring and regenerating to create an improved future) through our education, research, engagement, and operational strands. It includes five objectives and associated KPIs and measures.

Mauri ora is a fundamental principle that guides this plan. Mauri ora, in this context, is a state of optimal wellbeing of our planetary living system and the human and non-human whanaunga or kin who comprise this. To act for mauri ora and socio-ecological wellbeing is to act regeneratively. Ngā Tohu Mauri Ora, is AUT's Regenerative Action and Sustainability Compass (and a key part of the plan), which guides regenerative action within our AUT community and environment and is grounded in te ao Māori. The compass navigates to the centre, which is mauri ora (living systems wellbeing) establishing this as a primary purpose and direction.

The plan is led by the AUT Regenerative Action and Sustainability Committee and we operate a co-governance model with two co-chairs – DVC Research Professor Mark Orams and Professor Amanda Yates. Other members include key representatives from Te Whare Tūroa: AUT's Regenerative Environments Research Network and Estates. We are progressing a list of activities for 2026, and some of these include:

- Progressing two project charters to Executive Portfolio Board in October to commence the development of Mauri Ora campuses at North and South campuses, and assessing opportunities for achieving carbon emission offsetting for AUT;
- Installing a micro grid and solar PV installation at North and South campuses (led by Estates) where the panels will meet 22% of the campus' electricity needs and reduce AUT's annual carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions by 65 tonnes;
- Reviewing the DCT air travel carbon budget pilot and expanding this to CSOC and BEL Faculties;

- Introducing textile recycling within the fashion department in the School of Art and Design;
- Identifying and progressing a preferred approach for AUT to address modern slavery (when someone is exploited by others for personal or financial gain); and
- Two student summer sustainability projects – measuring biodiversity on campus and re-development of future sustainability reports.

We are currently seeking feedback from staff, students and iwi about the draft Te Ara Mauri Ora Plan. We expect to finalise the Plan before the end of 2026 and will continue to complete annual sustainability reports to show our staff, students and stakeholders how we are progressing against the KPIs in our Plan.

AUT's 2025 Sustainability Report

Progress under the previous Sustainability Plan 2018 – 2025 included some very aspirational targets. A broad overview of our progress against key targets in the outgoing plan are below:

- 5,595 students were enrolled in one or more sustainability-focused course (20% of AUT students), an increase of 10% when compared with 2020;
- AUT had 535 publications that contribute to one or more United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UNSDGs) in 2025 (36% of all outputs), an increase from 17% in 2020;
- AUT's CO₂e emissions in 2025 were 8,994 CO₂e tonnes, a 34% decrease compared to our 2018 baseline year, AUT's target was to reduce emissions by 50% (Our five main emissions sources, represent about 90% of AUT's total emissions and (in order) are student commuter travel, air travel, electricity, staff commuter travel and natural gas;
- Emissions from air travel decreased by 48% since 2018, AUT's target was to reduce mains water consumption by 50%; and
- 60% of waste sent to landfill, 40% composted and recycled, AUT's target was to halve waste to landfill.

In the outgoing plan there were 26 targets, some of which were very ambitious. Ten of the targets were achieved, seven partially achieved, and nine not achieved. For the new plan, the approach was to reduce the number of targets and achieve more reasonable and achievable targets, whilst retaining a practical level of aspiration. Responsibilities are assigned to relevant areas for implementation and activities developed, each year, with the relevant area within AUT. Furthermore, the AUT Strategic Funding opportunity managed by the Executive Portfolio Board, offers a valuable approach for assessing and funding relevant strategic initiatives.

AUT's Climate Scenarios

Climate change is a significant risk for AUT, and it also offers some real opportunities. AUT was part of a tertiary education sector group that developed four climate scenarios at the sector level. AUT's doing further work to develop these scenarios, so they are specific to AUT and our context. Thus far we have:

- Developed draft AUT climate scenarios, using the tertiary education sector scenarios as a basis;
- Drafted AUT climate risks, which include both physical threats (associated with the physical impacts of climate change) and transition threats (related to the transition to a low carbon economy), and opportunities. The physical impacts of climate change are based on the most recent New Zealand specific climate change science;
- Discussed the scenarios, threats and opportunities and the process of development with over 20 AUT staff (including Carina Chen, AUT's Risk Senior Manager) and externals in order to receive feedback and additional information; and
- In late September we will conduct two workshops with AUT students, so they can provide input into the climate scenarios.

Whilst the climate scenario work was born out of a response to the Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standards and completing climate disclosures, the process of developing the disclosures is providing the greatest benefit. As we progress this work we are raising awareness across the organisation, assessing the current state and looking for ways to embed additional mitigation and potential adaptation measures across the organisation, as well as provide additional information for AUT's Strategic Risk management and reporting, and strategic decision making.

Australasian Green Gown Awards 2026

The Green Gown Awards Australasia are the premier sustainability awards for the tertiary education sector.

AUT is a finalist in two categories for the following:

- Student engagement - we delivered this through a combination of staff-supported activities and student-led initiatives. The range of activities involved students planting about 1,000 native plants on the campuses, diverting nearly half a tonne of waste from landfill through Fresh Fits (an AUT Library led used clothing giveaway for students), as well as a pop-up shop in student accommodation for used household items and supported students who designed and delivered a one day climate advocacy conference that was attended by nearly 70 people; and
- Sustainability institution of the year – this reflects the work that we completed over the course of the previous sustainability plan and includes a 10% increase in the percentage of students completing sustainability focused courses, a 19% increase in SDG related research outputs, and reductions in CO₂e emissions of 34%. Many of these points are mentioned above, in the overview of the 2025 Sustainability Report.

Conclusion

The key priorities for the remainder of 2026 include:

- Incorporating staff, student and iwi feedback about Te Ara Mauri Ora and finalising the Plan;
- Implementing 2026 activities associated with Te Ara Mauri Ora;
- Preparing staff and student engagement in sustainability and regeneration activities for 2027; and
- Further developing AUT's climate scenarios and risk reviews, including understanding of physical threats, transition threats and opportunities.



PART A OPEN AGENDA ITEM	13.5
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Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Council and Committee Meeting Schedule - 2026

Date: 17 September 2026

Author: Council Secretary

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2027

COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE FOR 2027

MEETING	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Council Finance & Audit Committee (CFAC) Mondays 12pm – 2.30pm All Meetings Held at AUT City Campus		Meeting 08/03 SCFAC 12.00pm-1.30pm Teams Meeting Agenda Deadline 26/02	Meeting 12/04 Agenda Deadline 02/04		Meeting 28/06 Agenda Deadline 18/06			Meeting 20/09 Agenda Deadline 10/09		Meeting 29/11 Agenda Deadline 19/11	
Council People & Culture Committee (P&C) Mondays 2.30pm – 5.30pm All Meetings Held at AUT City Campus			Meeting 12/04 Agenda Deadline 02/04			Meeting 12/07 Agenda Deadline 02/07				Meeting 29/11 Agenda Deadline 19/11	
Council Meeting (FCM) Mondays 2.30pm – 5.30pm	Meeting 22/02 AGM 2.30pm - 2.45pm FCM 2.45pm – 5.30pm AUT City Campus Agenda Deadline 12/02	Meeting 22/03 SCM 2.30pm-4.00pm Teams Meeting Agenda Deadline 12/03	Meeting 27/04 FCM 2.30 – 5.30 pm AUT City Campus Agenda Deadline 16/04	Meeting 31/05 H&S Tour 1 – 2.30pm FCM 2.30 – 5.30 pm AUT Sth Campus Agenda Deadline 21/05		Meeting 26/07 H&S Tour 1 - 2.30pm FCM 2.30 – 5.30 pm AUT Nth Campus Agenda Deadline 16/07		Meeting 27/09 H&S Tour 1 - 2.30pm FCM 2.30 – 5.30 pm AUT City Campus Agenda Deadline 17/09	Meeting 18/10 SCM AUT City Campus Agenda Deadline 08/10		Meeting 06/12 FCM AUT City Campus Agenda Deadline 26/11

FCM – Full Council Meeting / SCM – Special Council Meeting (as required) / SCFAC Special Council Finance & Audit Committee (as required)