

AGENDA PAPERS

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

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

**Olympic Room, 17 Antares Place, Rosedale, Auckland
AUT Millennium**

On: Monday, 29 September 2025

FROM: 3.30 – 6.00 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
	Mark Darrow Appointed by the Minister
	Alicia Lemmer 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	
<p>Tuia ki te rangi Dedicated to the sky</p> <p>Tuia ki te whenua and to the earth below</p> <p>Tuia ki te human kind are bound</p> <p>Ira tangata and inseperable</p> <p>Ka rongo te pō From the infinite potential</p> <p>Ka rongo te ao to the realization in light</p> <p>Tūturu whakamaua Let us come together</p> <p>Kia tīna with purpose</p> <p>Haumi e Hui e united and ready</p> <p>Tāiki e to progress</p>	<p>Kia tau iho Let the strength</p> <p>Te tauwhirotanga and serenity</p> <p>O te wāhi ngaro of our ancestors</p> <p>E pai ai te nohotahi guide us as we gather</p> <p>Ā tinana, wairua hoki in body and spirit</p> <p>Whakauenuku ake Holdfast to</p> <p>Te āio mō te katoa Peace for all</p> <p>Kia whakamaua kia tīna let it be realised</p> <p>Hui e Tāiki e for us all</p>
Closing	
<p>Unuhia, unuhia Draw on, draw on</p> <p>Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui Draw on the supreme sacredness</p>	<p>Kia tau kia tātou katoa May peace, love, and safety</p> <p>Te āio, te aroha me te marutau Be upon us all</p>

<p>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</p> <p>Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga Rongo, suspended high above us</p> <p>Kia tina! Tina! Hui e! Tāiki e! Draw together! Affirm!</p>	<p>Thei mauri ora a promise of a glorious day</p>
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PART A

OPEN AGENDA



COUNCIL PART A OPEN AGENDA

Council Agenda Part A (Open Agenda)

Monday 29 September 2025 from 3.30 pm to be held in the Olympic Room, 17 Antares Place, Rosedale, Auckland, AUT Millennium

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, August and September 2025.	The Chancellor moves that the following be approved : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See item 3.1
4. Council Meetings	4.1 Council Meeting Draft Minutes Part A, 28 July 2025. 4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes Part A of the Council Meeting, 28 July 2025 not elsewhere on the agenda.	The Chancellor moves that the Minutes Part A of the Council Meeting held on 28 July 2025 and be taken as read and confirmed .
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, 28 July and 25 August 2025.	The Chancellor moves that Reports and Minutes from the Academic Board , 28 July and 25 August 2025 be received .

8. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Report	8. Health, Safety & Wellbeing Report for July-September 2025	The Chancellor moves that the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report for July-September 2025 be received .
9. Te Tiriti	9. No report	
10. Strategic Reports	10. No report	
11. Student Success	11. No report	
12. Correspondence referred by the Chancellor	12. No correspondence	
13. Other matters arising for decision or noting	<p>13.1 Update from the President of AUTSA.</p> <p>13.2 Update from the Council Member elected by the Academic Staff of the Auckland University of Technology</p> <p>13.3 Update from the Council Member elected by the Professional Staff of the Auckland University of Technology</p> <p>13.4 AUT Sustainability Roadmap Report</p> <p>13.5 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule 2026</p>	<p>The Chancellor moves that the Update from AUTSA be received.</p> <p>The Chancellor moves that the Update from the Council member Elected by the Academic Staff of the Auckland University of Technology be received.</p> <p>The Chancellor moves that the Update from the Council member Elected by the Professional Staff of the Auckland University of Technology be received.</p> <p>The Chancellor moves that the AUT Sustainability Roadmap Report from Lucy McKenzie, Head of Sustainability, Strategy & Planning be received.</p> <p>The Chancellor moves that the 2026 Meeting Schedule be approved.</p>
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 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 July 2025	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 Millenium	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)
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 15 September 2025	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i) and s 9(2)(k)	s7(2)(b), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
23. Other Business	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i) and s 9(2)(k)	s7(2)(b), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)



Part A
OPEN AGENDA
ITEM

3.1

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: **GRANTING, RESCINDING, REVOKING AND AMENDING QUALIFICATIONS – JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2025**

Date: **23 JULY 2025**

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. GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2025 JULY MONTHLY CERTIFICATE CYCLE ON 24 JULY.*
- 2. GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2025 JULY CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY (COP) CYCLE ON 24 JULY.*

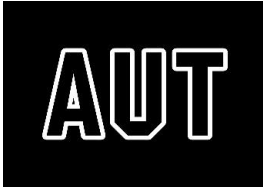
AUGUST

- 3. GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2025 WINTER GRADUATION CORPORATE CYCLE ON 7 – 8 AUGUST.*
- 4. GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2025 WINTER GRADUATION CORPORATE CYCLE ON 7-8 AUGUST.*
- 5. REVOKE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE STUDENTS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE AHEAD OF THE 2025 WINTER GRADUATION CORPORATE CYCLE ON 7-8 AUGUST.*

SEPTEMBER

- 6. REVOKE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE STUDENTS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE AHEAD OF THE 2025 SEPTEMBER MONTHLY CORPORATE CYCLE ON 11 SEPTEMBER.*
- 7. GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2025 SEPTEMBER MONTHLY CORPORATE CYCLE ON 11 SEPTEMBER.*
- 8. GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2025 SEPTEMBER MONTHLY CERTIFICATE CYCLE ON 11 SEPTEMBER.*
- 9. GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2025 SEPTEMBER CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY (COP) CYCLE ON 11 SEPTEMBER.*
- 10. AMEND THE QUALIFICATION FOR THE STUDENTS IN THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE.*

The schedules are in supplementary papers.



PART A OPEN AGENDA ITEM	4.1
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Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Minutes of Part A of the Council Meeting held on 28 July 2025

Date: 29 July 2025

Author: A Vujnovich

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE MINUTES OF PART A OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 JULY 2025 BE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF THAT MEETING

CONFIDENTIAL



MINUTES

Council Meeting

Meeting held 28 July 2025 at 3.30 pm
AF Building, North Shore Campus, Auckland

PRESENT: R Campbell (Chair), M Royal (via Teams), D Salesa, J Smith, L Foliaki, W Ings, A Lemmer; S Clarke; M Darrow, M Huang, L Thomson, P Treacy (via Teams).

SECRETARY: A Vujnovich, Council Secretary
R Nottingham, Minute Taker

IN ATTENDANCE: L Williams (Chief Financial Officer and AVC Finance and Infrastructure); F Reid (Acting DVC Academic); M Durie (Te Toi Aronui) – Item 9.1; M Orams (DVC Research); F Henare (Director Health & Safety & Wellbeing) - Item 8.1; S Davies (Group Director People & Culture) – Item 8.1; J Mayerhofer (Chief Marketing Officer) – Item 22.1; B Cowan (Dean Faculty Health & Environmental Sciences).

IN APOLOGY: None.

HEALTH AND SAFETY korero see notes: (to follow);

PART A OPEN AGENDA

The meeting was opened with a karakia led by the Chancellor.

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved

1. *THAT APOLOGIES BE RECEIVED FROM M ROYAL FOR EARLY DEPARTURE FROM THE MEETING*
2. *THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS TO PART A AND PART B OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA BE APPROVED.*

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.

Resolved

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

3 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTER, CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND POLICY

3.1 None

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 26 May 2025

Resolved

THE MINUTES OF PART A, COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 MAY 2025 BE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF THAT MEETING.

4.2 Matters Arising

Council noted the status of the matters arising.

5 VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Received

Vice Chancellor's Report

Noted in discussion

- Staff member composition with KPIs and actions would be reported on at the next meeting;
- Supported pursuing partnerships in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines which had a fast-growing cohort of students and staff at the university;
- Supported student cost recovery for placements outside Auckland but queried whether "one size fits" all approach appropriate for students with greater need, noting students were able to seek other financial support;
- Supported training for staff on in artificial intelligence (AI) and asked Management if there were opportunities for Council members to participate;
- Opportunities in international student market, noting Management focus on growing study abroad opportunities in USA and in areas of distinct strengths, such as sports science;
- Long Term Academic & Capital Plan (LTACP) supported international student growth by 12 percent to 2034, with further domestic student growth unlikely to be funded;
- Requested a line item be added to financial summary regarding PBRF revenue and include rolling 12-month financial covenants view;
- Requested prior year outcomes be added to KPI table to enable improved clarity and monitoring by Council;
- Noted salary savings resulted from unfilled vacancies and timing of recruitment, putting more pressure on staff in some areas.

Actions:

- Management to adjust financial reporting to include line item for PBRF revenue and include rolling 12-month financial covenants view.
- Management to improve clarity of KPI reporting table including add prior year outcomes.

Resolved

THAT THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT BE RECEIVED.

6 CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

None

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

7.1 Academic Board Reports and Minutes, 26 May and 30 June 2025

Received

Academic Board Reports and Minutes, 26 May and 30 June 2025

Noted in Discussion:

- Assessment of programme quality involved student feedback and pass rates but was not an objective data activity and all universities self-assessed;
- Management met with Faculty staff to support programmes where improvement needed and systemising the approach through development of an academic quality framework;
- Important for Council to understand this topic and requested a presentation on academic quality including data, benchmarks and framework;
- Management developing programmatic approach to AI in assessments and use of AI by students to reflect to be included in specific disciplinary guidelines.

Action: Management to present to Council on Academic Quality including data, benchmarks and framework.

Resolved

THAT THE ACADEMIC BOARD REPORTS AND MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 MAY AND 30 JUNE 2025 BE RECEIVED.

8 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT

8.1 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report, May- June 2025

Received

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report, May-June 2025

Noted in discussion

- Noted that majority of actions associated with programmes of work were administrative, and needed to be completed sequentially;
- Requested Management to add target completion dates to aid accountability for H&S and other programmes of work.

Action: Management to add target completion dates to aid accountability for H&S and other programmes of work.

Resolved

THAT THE HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT FOR MAY-JUNE 2025 BE RECEIVED.

9 TE TIRITI REPORT

9.1. Report from Te Toi Aronui Professor Meihana Durie

Received

Report from Te Toi Aronui Professor Meihana Durie

Noted in discussion

- Management focus was to embed Te Aronui framework through the university for staff and students and to promulgate and inculcate matauranga Māori;
- Importance of AUT partnership with Ngāti Whatua Orakei including in the implementing Te Aronui;
- Strong growth of Māori population in Tamaki Makau Rau, AUT should be well positioned to support Māori student growth and support them into their future, including role of technology;
- AUT should take steps to respond to needs of first language Te Reo Māori speakers who wanted to continue their education in Te Reo, a cohort that was growing;

- Honour of AUT hosting the WIPCE conference, which offered opportunities to engage with indigenous academics from around the world;
- Indications Māori students broadly had positive AUT experience, with request for a detailed report including data and insights of Māori students and their experience;
- Supported Management focus on matauranga Māori and opportunity to explore interface between it and pakeha approaches to knowledge.

Action:

- Management to issue invitations to Council Members to attend WIPCE conference in November.
- Management to present on Māori student numbers and experience in AUT in a future report.

Resolved

THAT THE REPORT FROM TE TOI ARONUI PROFESSOR MEIHANA DURIE BE RECEIVED

10 STRATEGIC REPORTS

10.1. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research – Update Report

Received

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research – Update Report

Noted in discussion

- Increase in post graduate students writing and being examined in Te Reo Māori and holding first Māori Research Symposium being held in Te Reo;
- Management focus was on growing external research especially “weighted external research income” that generated better PBRF returns and research-related consultancy;
- Clarity on PBRF replacement system expected through revised Tertiary Education Strategy due in next couple of months;
- PHD students were significant part of University’s research capability and University approach to postgraduates should align with university strategy;
- Management considering its approach to IP ownership and commercialisation ahead of Government position, on this area which was expected to change;
- If IP ownership reverted to inventors, AUT Ventures would need strong commercialisation offering and would have competition from other universities with more experience and scale;
- AUT Ventures presenting to Council in December by which time Government decision should be known;
- Management seeking to shifting mindset of academics to move beyond research publication to make a difference in real world from;
- Whether it was possible to quantify economic value from research effectively, and if not what other means could demonstrate impact.

Resolved

THAT THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR RESEARCH – UPDATE REPORT FROM PROFESSOR MARK ORAMS, DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR, RESEARCH BE RECEIVED

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

Verbal Update

- AUTSA participating in Auckland city centre advisory panel looking at improved security and life in city;
- Responded to feedback on draft TEC strategy and presented to Academic Board on student representation approach;
- Advocating to increase student transport concession with University of Auckland.

Noted in discussion

- Suggested AUTSA could seek reduction of weekly maximum transport fee that Auckland Transport had promoted.

Resolved

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AUTSA

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

Verbal Update

- Appropriate use of AI to enhance learning and outputs was a continued theme;
- Academic staff concern around slow delivery of national policy and how research is valued so that can reflect this in activities and development.

Noted in discussion

- Some staff felt increased pressure from high workloads and responding to large cohorts of students with higher needs;
- Consideration should be given to ensuring scholarships provide student support not only tuition fees;
- AUT served a student population with higher proportion of students with additional needs, and this was reflected by increased investment in student services.

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

Verbal Update

- Positive feedback provided on progress of Pacific Plan, including additional roles and supports;
- Improved student information management would help staff understand and respond to student concerns;
- University need to be mindful of and respond to “cultural tax” on staff, especially Māori and Pacific staff where it was not a part of their role.

Noted in discussion

- Supported steps being taken to mitigate risks of cultural tax, including formal recognition in staff roles and ensuring staff equipped with appropriate skills and expertise.

Resolved

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

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

None

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, A Vujnovich, R Nottingham, F Reid, M Orams, B Cowan and J Mayerhofer 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) LGOMA for the passing of this resolution
15. Council Meeting Part B of the meeting held on 26 May 2025	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)
18. 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)
20.1 Draft Minutes of Finance and Audit Committee held on 30 June 2025 20.2 Draft Minutes of the People and Culture Committee held on 14 July 2025 & 20.3 Nominations Committee	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i) and s 9(2)(k)	s 7(2)(b), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
21 Items moved from part A to Part B		
22. Other Business		
22.1	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(k)	7(2)(a), 7(2)(j)
22.2	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(g)(i)	7(2)(a) and section 7(2)(f)(i)

22.3	Section 9(2)(ba), 9(2)(f)(iv), Section 9(2)(g)(ii), s 9(2)(k)	7(2)(c), 7(2)(f)(ii) and 7(2)(j)
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DRAFT

Health & Safety & Wellbeing (HSW) Walkabout and Tour – North Campus – 28 July 2025 - Hosted by Faculty of Health & Environmental Sciences – AUT Gym and rooms on City Campus

Stephen Davies, Fred Henare, Odette Howarth (People & Culture), Gaye Bryham, Senior Lecturer School of Sport & Recreation, Himan Patel, Centre Manager Gyms, & Stadiums Jacqui Brabant (Manager North)

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.

Background & Context

- The largest of AUT’s 3 gyms, the Akoranga North Campus Gym includes a sports stadium, badminton courts, spaces for social sports, exercise consultations, and first aid courses.
- The facility caters to schools, tertiary students, the public, staff and national/international sports teams and their support crews.
- The high daily number of school students, university students, staff and other sporting bodies through the facility and the very nature of the activities (competitive sport games & training; heavy lifting; bodily contact etc), at a variety of skill levels resulted in a higher number of Noggin incidents albeit with typically lower range of consequences: ball contacts; slips, trips, falls; machine issues etc) compared to other departments, however, they are well reported, controlled and expected.
- Staff in these facilities are highly trained and most injuries are covered by ACC (HSWA) rather than particular legislation. Incident rates fluctuate through predictable cycles during the year directly correlated to increased numbers of users/effort on.
- There had been one fatality in the gym due to a congenital issue though protocols had been followed

Key Points discussed and noted by Members:

Gym Hall

- Built in 2000 with large sprung floor that was specially laid and was regularly resurfaced, maintained and cleaned and dehumidifiers, all of which actions reduced the likelihood of slips, muscle damage and trips. Noted that most injuries were claims under ACC.
- Emergency procedures evident on the wall.
- Organisations wanting to use the facilities have to sign terms and conditions in advance that set out H&S duties and briefings also take place;
- Discussed overlapping H&S duties of AUT and other organisations in use of facilities, noting the terms and conditions addressed this with further refinements likely to result from learnings from the work on overlapping duties for student placements being undertaken by AUT with Te Whatu Ora.
- Breaches of expectations were proactively managed by the on-site team through communication with relevant organisations such as where supervisor numbers.
- Management confirmed that incidents all logged in Noggin (H&S incident reporting) and followed up with both relevant parties, such as schools and sports organisations. An explicit example given of an involving an altercation and Management outlined steps taken including involving security following up with organisations on multiple occasions and need to refuse access if repeat incidents.
- Changing rooms were gender specific but there were all gender bathrooms and spaces complied with NZ sport guidelines.

Gym and workout rooms

- Community and student membership to gym facilities closely managed with in person H&S induction and consultation before new users permitted to use gym equipment;
- Staff monitored users in the space;

- Gym equipment regularly monitored and maintained;
- Gym users not permitted to use cell phones while on the equipment.
- Steps been taken to identify proactively risks in the spaces and mitigate risks – example provided was the anchoring of ballet barres;
- Community programmes also operated in workout spaces including mobility and stability classes.
- Management were aware that use of gyms was increasing and would be monitored by Management to ensure safety of users, noting currently that different cohorts using the gym spread their use across the opening hours.

Teaching spaces

- Smaller spaces with equipment that allowed students of sports science and other programmes to undertake theoretical and practical learning;
- Use of equipment was consistently supervised by lecturers;
- Practical learning was practised on other students, rather than members of the public;
- Equipment was regularly maintained and well organised around the periphery of the
- Sensors and “skin pricks” were the limit of testing undertaken so no syringes or chemicals stored.

DRAFT

COUNCIL MEETING RAISED	ACTION	WHO	STATUS/ TARGET DATE
24 February 2025	13.3 Update from the Council Member elected by the Professional Staff of AUT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management to provide a briefing to Council on the likely effects of the new literacy and numeracy requirements on AUT at an appropriate time. <u>Update May 2025:</u> NCEA website notes the transition to new requirements has been deferred to 2028.	AVC Strategy & Planning	Open/Deferred to late 2026
28 July 2025	5.1 Vice Chancellor's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management to adjust financial reporting to include line item for PBRF revenue and include rolling 12-month financial covenants view. <u>Update September 2025:</u> included in Vice Chancellor's report September 2025	AVC Finance & Infrastructure	Actioned
28 July 2025	5.1 Vice Chancellor's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management to improve clarity of KPI reporting table including add prior year outcomes. <u>Update September 2025</u> – revised KPI reporting included in the Vice Chancellor's report September 2025.	Vice Chancellor's Office	Actioned
28 July 2025	7.1 Academic Board Reports and Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management to present to Council on Academic Quality including data, benchmarks and framework. 	DVC Academic	Open/December 2025
28 July 2025	8.1 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management to add target completion dates to aid accountability for H&S and other programmes of work. <u>Update September 2025</u> – please refer to HSW Report esp. Appendix 1 to that report.	AVC People & Culture	Actioned
28 July 2025	9.1 Te Tiriti <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management to issue invitations to Council Members to attend WIPCE conference in November. 	AVC Corporate	Actioned
28 July 2025	9.1 Te Tiriti <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management to present on Māori student numbers and experience in AUT in a future report. 	Te Toi Aronui	Open/December 2025



PART A	5
OPEN AGENDA ITEM	

Council Agenda Paper

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

Date: **29 September 2025**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT BE RECEIVED

SECTION 1. AUT'S CURRENT POSITION

1.1 Vice-Chancellor's introduction

Semester 2 has brought renewed energy to AUT's campuses, as new and returning students reconnect with their studies and with each other. This period has been marked by a strong sense of community, with staff across the University playing a vital role in welcoming students and supporting their success.

AUT LIVE was a powerful expression of who we are, drawing thousands of visitors and showcasing the depth and diversity of our university. Alongside this, Research Week highlighted the impact of our research and reaffirmed our identity as Aotearoa's university of technology and university of opportunity. These events reflect our commitment to creating meaningful experiences and advancing knowledge that makes a difference.

We continue to invest in student wellbeing through initiatives such as the Student Support Fund and new financial support for students on clinical placements. Free gym memberships for students for the remainder of the year also reinforce our focus on health and wellbeing as part of AUT's 25 Years celebrations.

Across the University, our people continue to lead with excellence. From national recognition for our Estates Group to major research grants awarded to Business School academics, these achievements speak to the strength of our culture and the impact of our work. Our students are also excelling, with more than 80 projects named finalists in the Best Awards, reflecting the creativity and relevance of our learning environment.

As the sector responds to the University Advisory Group's (UAG) final report and the Government's response, AUT remains committed to engaging constructively and contributing to a future-focused and ready tertiary system. Our strategy, Te Kete, continues to guide us as we prepare graduates the world needs, apply knowledge with purpose, and work in

partnership to make a difference. Thank you to Council members for your continued support and stewardship of AUT.

HIGHLIGHTS

- During research week AUT launched its first Pacific Research Guidelines, a milestone that strengthens Pacific research excellence at AUT and beyond. [Read more](#)
 - AUT has signed a non-exclusive Statement of Intent focused on enhanced collaboration with Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington and University of Otago — Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka (Otago). [Read more](#)
 - Close to 6,000 visitors, 700 staff and two humanoid robots made for an extremely busy and vibrant AUT LIVE 2025 on 30 August. [Read more](#)
 - The AUT Estates Group has been awarded 'Team of the Year' at the prestigious Ngā Tohu a Facilities Management Association of NZ (FMANZ) Awards for 2025. [Read more](#)
 - AUT introduced two humanoid robots to the university community and New Zealand. [Read more](#)
 - Hundreds of students took part in the Generation 2100: Student-Led Climate Advocacy Forum on AUT's City Campus. [Read more](#)
 - AUT innovators took centre stage during Te Wiki Rangahau (Research Week 2025) with the highly anticipated AUT Innovation Showcase. [Read more](#)
 - The latest AUT Impact episode features Professor Damon Salesa and Helen Clark in conversation on the Pacific's future and the region's long-term challenges. [Watch now](#)
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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

AUT continues to advance its academic transformation agenda through the implementation of the Academic and Capital Plan (ACP). The plan has been socialised with senior leaders at Te Haūtu and a detailed document outlining its scope and priorities has been made available to all staff. A Portfolio Board, comprising all Executive members, has been established to oversee the transformation programme including the ACP. The Board held its inaugural meeting and preparatory work is now underway to commence environmental scanning across AUT's major disciplines.

AUT Online has achieved a strong first intake, exceeding initial performance projections and positioning the platform for early returns. The MBA programme enrolled 48 students, 60 percent above the target of 30, while the Master of Educational Leadership enrolled 37 students, exceeding its target by 23 percent. These results affirm the strength of AUT's market positioning, programme relevance and recruitment strategies. The next phase of AUT Online portfolio growth will focus on strategically aligned areas that reflect institutional priorities and respond to emerging market demand. A Certificate of Proficiency in AI (Practical Applications of Applied AI) will launch in November 2025 to test demand for self-standing and stackable courses. Five new programmes are currently progressing through the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) review process for a Trimester One 2026 launch: Master of Applied AI, Master of Digital Transformation Leadership, Master of Creative Innovation and Technology, Master of Applied Psychology and Master of Human Performance Leadership.

The Assessment Policy Project is fully underway, with resources finalised and workshops supporting programmatic approaches to AI in assessment continuing across identified programmes. The AI Friday drop-in sessions remain well attended, supporting staff capability and engagement.

Progress has also been made in Work Integrated Learning (WIL). A preferred vendor has been selected following a thorough evaluation process and user group feedback. Negotiations are currently underway, and a WIL Placement Lead has been appointed on a two-year secondment. The software will be named *Takitini*, meaning "the many," reflecting values of collective effort, community and shared strength. As expressed in the whakataukī: *Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini* — "My success is not the success of one, but the success of many." Nursing will be the first discipline to implement the new system.

Academic Portfolio Management continues to progress key initiatives. A draft Graduate Profile is being prepared for wider consultation alongside development of a decision-making framework to assess AUT's academic offerings and an Academic Quality Framework. A standing chair, Ken Lee, has been appointed to lead Graduating Year Reviews and Periodic Reviews with the aim of improving quality and consistency in review processes and CUAP reporting. The business case for a new Curriculum Management System is also advancing.

2.2 Student Success

Progress continues under the Ki Uta Ki Tai Student Success Plan, with Project Navigator now in the service design phase. A cross-functional pan-AUT design team is running weekly workshops to develop recommendations for the Executive by year-end. The project team has engaged AUT's enterprise risk manager to identify key risks for the Council Finance & Audit Committee (CFAC), including maintaining momentum with adequate resourcing, upholding equity commitments through authentic engagement with Māori and diverse voices, and ensuring effective Executive leadership to manage interdependencies across AUT projects. These risks are particularly relevant in the context of a challenging and increasingly complex external environment, including union negotiations.

To support near-term risk mitigation, stakeholder engagement continues, including walkthroughs of the service design room. This includes a walkthrough and leadership exercise with the Academic and Capital Plan portfolio group in September. Delivery continues across several initiatives including the AUT App and Continuous Improvement programme, Pathways, Disability Action Plan, Iti Kōpara and Aronui Ako.

A key focus for the remainder of 2025 and into 2026 will be supporting the transition of key transformation projects, including Project Navigator, into the Academic and Capital Plan portfolio group. Work is also underway to determine governance arrangements for other projects within the Ki Uta Ki Tai framework.

AUT Online is contributing to AUT's vision as New Zealand's university of opportunity by attracting priority learner groups at scale. Across both the MBA and Master of Educational Leadership programmes, the largest cohort demographics are Pasifika, female and aged 40+, reflecting strong engagement from mid-career professionals balancing study, work, whānau and community.

- MBA: 33% Pasifika, 18% Māori, 26% Pākehā, 22% Asian
- MEdL: 27% Pasifika, 24% Māori, 25% Pākehā, 18% Asian, 7% other

This diversity profile indicates that AUT Online is removing barriers to postgraduate study and enabling success for learners who are often under-represented in higher education. The strength of this response reinforces the value of the fully online delivery model and its potential to expand access and impact.

2.3 Innovative and Technology-Enabled Teaching and Learning

AUT continues to explore and implement technology-enabled approaches that enhance teaching and learning. Cogniti agents have now been deployed in courses for a third semester and are receiving positive feedback from staff and students. The Office of Learning, Teaching and Education Design (LTED), in collaboration with ICT Services, is undertaking a strategic review to determine the most appropriate deployment model for 2026. A recommendation will be prepared following completion of this process in September.

The Learning Technologies Sub-Committee is developing institutional guidance on the role of artificial intelligence in marking and feedback. This work is being undertaken in close consultation with the AUT Student Association (AUTSA) Vice President Academic to ensure student perspectives are embedded in the approach. LTED is also examining how AUT's current learning technology ecosystem can support the observation and evidencing of student

learning in AI-enabled environments. This work aligns with the implementation of AUT's Assessment Principles and Policy.

Planning is underway for the AUT Learning and Teaching Symposium, scheduled for 25 and 26 November 2025. The theme is *Auckland University of Technology and Opportunity*, and expressions of interest for staff contributions are currently open. AUT has renewed its institutional license for FeedbackFruits, a platform that supports collaborative learning and peer evaluation. In addition, a project team is developing an AI Bootcamp for December 2025, designed to support 200 graduating students in building foundational skills and confidence in AI-enabled professional environments.

2.4 Equity and Inclusion

AUT continues to strengthen equity-focused support systems to ensure students are not disadvantaged by financial hardship or structural barriers. Engagement between the Student Hub and Pou Māori is supporting cross moderation of student support practices, with a focus on improving consistency and effectiveness in the delivery of Financial Emergency and Hardship support and Student Conduct and Appeals processes. This collaboration is helping identify opportunities to enhance service quality and ensure equitable outcomes for students.

To address the increasing financial challenges faced by students undertaking clinical placements outside Auckland, the Student Advisory Committee has approved a targeted hardship grant of \$100 per week. This support applies to school-assigned placements and aims to reduce barriers to compulsory clinical experiences. Development of the Clinical Placement Grant began in July 2025, with communications to eligible students issued in early August.

In addition to this new support, students remain eligible for placement-related assistance through the Student Financial Hardship Fund. Student Services and Administration (SS&A) continues to run proactive outreach campaigns throughout the academic year, particularly for students preparing for placement. These campaigns are supported by assessments carried out by Student Advisors and Pou Āwhina, ensuring support is provided based on demonstrated need.

In response to advocacy from the AUT Student Association (AUTSA) and increasing placement pressures, SS&A is shifting toward a more proactive model of support, working closely with programme leaders to ensure students are not disadvantaged by unavoidable placement logistics.

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 Building Research Activity

Te Wiki Rangahau | Research Week continues to be a moment to reflect on the research that defines AUT and the difference it makes in the lives of our communities. This year's theme, *Research that makes a difference*, highlighted AUT's commitment to research that enables practical improvements for people, animals, organisations, economies and environments. Across 31 events, the week showcased the breadth of AUT's research activity, with a strong emphasis on partnerships for impact. AUT's research delivers real-world outcomes through collaboration with iwi, government, industry, not-for-profits and community groups.

Te Ipukarea Research Institute hosted the Cook Islands Consul General to New Zealand to launch the online *Dictionary of the Māori language of Rarotonga* ("The Savage Dictionary"), marking the conclusion of 'Epetoma o te reo Māori Kūki 'Airani. Originally published in 1962, the Savage Dictionary complements existing Cook Islands dictionaries and is freely accessible online. AUT's inaugural Pacific Research Guidelines were also released during Research Week. These are the first guidelines produced by a New Zealand university to incorporate Indigenous Pacific artificial intelligence and data sovereignty considerations.

Te Kāhui Poipoi Rangahau (University Research Office) continues to strengthen AUT's research ecosystem through targeted engagement and innovation. Recent discussions with Microsoft New Zealand explored opportunities to support reo Māori and AI, with Datacom invited to join future hui. The team also engaged with AI Minds on terrain intelligence and geospatial data and participated in planning for Horizon Europe proposals and Spencer Foundation collaboration.

Internally, Te Kāhui Poipoi Rangahau is developing new tools to enhance funding alignment, including an AI algorithm that matches researchers with upcoming funding calls based on their profiles. Staff also contributed to faculty research committees and Kāhui Rauranga, supporting cross-university collaboration and strategic research development.

3.2 Adapting to Emerging Technologies

As part of AUT's commitment to embracing emerging technologies, the Research Education Advanced Network New Zealand (REANNZ) FileSender platform has been enabled for university-wide use. This secure, high-volume data sharing service supports research and collaboration by allowing researchers and educators to exchange large datasets efficiently. The platform strengthens AUT's digital infrastructure and fosters innovation and impactful knowledge creation, aligning with the strategic priorities outlined in Te Kete.

3.3 Research Impact and Success

AUT's applied research continues to deliver impact across health, technology and Indigenous wellbeing. In August, four new research contracts were signed, totalling over \$580,000. Notably, Dr Emma Davison received significant funding through the Health Research Council's

Emerging Researcher scheme to advance glioblastoma treatment, reflecting strong investment in early-career researchers working at the frontier of cancer therapeutics.

Māori-led research was also prominently supported, with kaupapa Māori approaches driving new insights into mental wellbeing. International collaboration remains strong, with projects underway in predictive analytics and Pasifika educational leadership. AUT also submitted its highest number of HRC project expression of interests (EOIs) since 2017, alongside a wide range of community-focused grant applications, reinforcing the University's commitment to research that makes a difference.

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 Advancing Education on the Global Stage

AUT recently hosted the official programme launch for WIPCE 2025, the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education, at City Campus. The conference returns to Aotearoa for the first time in two decades and will bring together thousands of Indigenous educators, leaders and knowledge holders at the Aotea Centre in November.

WIPCE is a global movement that honours, preserves and advances Indigenous education. The 2025 programme continues this legacy, bridging traditional knowledge and formal education, and ensuring Indigenous wisdom is both recognised and integrated.

An inspiring line-up of keynote speakers will explore themes central to Indigenous self-determination, including education systems, youth, environment, health, creative arts and cultural revitalisation. Alongside the conference, the free Te Ao Pūhahi Festival will run in Aotea Square, offering the wider public an opportunity to engage with Indigenous culture through food, performance, storytelling and creative workshops. WIPCE 2025 reflects AUT's commitment to Indigenous excellence and its role in hosting global conversations that shape the future of education.

4.2 Government & Civic Engagement

AUT continues to engage actively with government, civic leaders and policy processes to support national priorities and contribute to regional development. In July, AUT hosted the GEN NZ Unconference for entrepreneurs and innovators, with the event formally opened by Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown.

AUT welcomed New Zealand's newest Member of Parliament, Dr David Wilson, an AUT alumnus, for a discussion on Auckland's economic development and the University's role in shaping the region's future. This engagement reflects AUT's commitment to supporting informed leadership and contributing to public policy dialogue.

Ongoing collaboration with Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and the University of Auckland continues the development of a learning quarter precinct plan. This initiative aims to stimulate education, research, business and cultural experiences in the city, enhancing

economic and social benefits and raising awareness of learning opportunities in the central business district.

The Vice-Chancellor's Office has maintained strong engagement with government and diplomatic representatives. Across July and August, meetings and introductions included the Minister of Health, officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Australian and Papua New Guinea High Commissioners, the Consulate General of India, the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China and the Pakistan High Commissioner. AUT also participated in sector-wide discussions with the Tertiary Education Commission and other university leaders, reinforcing its role in shaping the future of tertiary education in Aotearoa.

4.3 University-Industry Collaboration

AUT continues to strengthen its engagement with industry through strategic partnerships and collaborative events that reflect the University's commitment to impact. In October, AUT will host its first-ever Partnerships Dinner called *Together for 25 - Poipoia*, a milestone event that brings together partners, supporters and friends of the University. This dinner is a tangible expression of Te Kete, AUT's strategy for partnerships that deliver meaningful outcomes, and will showcase the breadth of collaboration across research, education and community engagement.

In September, AUT co-hosted an event with Auckland FC and the Trans-Tasman Business Circle to celebrate the success of Auckland FC. Held at AUT's City Campus, the event highlighted the university's role in supporting civic and sporting leadership. Earlier in August, AUT also hosted Auckland FC partners and alumni, reinforcing connections between the University and the wider sporting and business community.

AUT has signed a new partnership with King's Trust, focused on entrepreneurship and innovation. This collaboration will explore opportunities to support emerging leaders and create pathways for young people to engage with enterprise and social impact.

4.4 International

AUT continues to expand its global engagement through strategic partnerships, student mobility and diplomatic outreach. In July, eight students participated in a cultural immersion programme at the University of Macau, strengthening cross-cultural understanding. Semester 2 welcomed 102 Study Abroad and Exchange students, marked by a welcome event that fostered connection and belonging. A new field-based short course in the Solomon Islands, developed in partnership with the School of Science, will launch in Semester 1 2026, offering reciprocal value to the local community and enriching student learning.

AUT's international leadership contributed to sector-wide strategy through participation in the Universities New Zealand International Committee, the New Zealand Centre at Peking University Advisory Board and a senior leadership workshop hosted by Universities New Zealand and Education New Zealand. These engagements supported alignment with the national International Education agenda and the Going for Growth plan.

In August, AUT hosted Education New Zealand's extended leadership team to share its international strategy and strengthen alignment with national priorities. AUT also convened the first Joint Management Committee meeting of the year with UP Education to review

partnership performance, align recruitment strategies and support continued growth of the foundation pathway pipeline.

Diplomatic engagement remains a priority. The International Office supported the Vice-Chancellor's Office with several diplomatic engagements in July and August. Delegations from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Universiti Poly-Tech Malaysia and Santa Clara University were received by the International Office to advance academic collaboration. AUT also renewed its student exchange agreement with Swinburne University of Technology and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of the Philippines Diliman, further strengthening its global partnerships.

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 Technology-Driven Innovation in Learning and Engagement

AUT continues to strengthen its digital infrastructure and accelerate innovation through strategic technology initiatives. The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Services team is investigating the implementation of automated testing protocols for the Canvas learning management system. This includes the introduction of daily automated checks to monitor system stability and performance. Embedding automation in this way will reduce manual testing, improve reliability and enable technical teams to focus on innovation and capability development.

To support faster and more sophisticated software delivery, ICT is exploring the integration of artificial intelligence features from GitHub into AUT's development workflows. AI-assisted coding is expected to enhance code quality and accelerate delivery cycles, supporting the development of digital services that meet the evolving needs of staff and students.

ICT is also developing a containerisation strategy to modernise AUT's infrastructure and support the adoption of containerised applications. This approach will improve scalability, resource efficiency and operational agility, while providing a flexible foundation for AI workloads, advanced analytics and other emerging technologies. These developments will enable AUT to deliver innovative solutions that enhance educational outcomes and institutional performance.

5.2 International Rankings

AUT has been awarded a five-star rating by international educational benchmarking agency Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) in the latest QS Stars rankings, placing the University among a select group of global institutions recognised for excellence across multiple dimensions of tertiary education.

Five-star ratings were maintained across all assessed categories, including employability, research, global engagement, environmental impact, facilities and sports-related subjects. For the first time, AUT also received five stars for good governance and for diversity, equity and inclusion.

This recognition affirms AUT's position as a university that delivers high-quality education, fosters inclusive environments and supports impactful research. According to QS, five-star institutions are global leaders in innovation and student experience, with reputations for tackling complex challenges through research and providing state-of-the-art facilities.

The QS Stars system evaluates universities worldwide across dozens of indicators, offering a comprehensive view of institutional performance beyond traditional rankings.

5.3 Domestic Brand Position and Marketing Activities

AUT's domestic brand presence continues to strengthen through strategic marketing and engagement initiatives led by Brand and Marketing Services. AUT LIVE 2025 marked a significant milestone as the university's largest recruitment event to date, with over 9,200 registrations and more than 5,000 new prospective student leads generated. While attendance was slightly lower than in 2024, the event created a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for prospective students and their whānau, supported by over 850 staff.

The AUT brand refresh has received Executive approval, with production and rollout now underway. The refreshed brand embraces a bold and distinctive identity, anchored by the tagline *Knowledge that works*, and will be reflected across future collateral and campaigns.

Digital service innovation continues to advance with the pilot of Bionic Chat, an AI-powered live chat tool. Following testing and refinement, a phased rollout began in early September, supporting improved engagement and responsiveness.

Across July and August, AUT generated 9,800 new leads through undergraduate and postgraduate marketing and recruitment activities, with the majority self-identifying as domestic.

5.4 Global Brand Position and Marketing Activities

Planning is underway for a two-year international marketing strategy, developed in collaboration with the International Office. This includes lead volume estimates for key markets to support targeted engagement and improved conversion.

Recent promotional efforts continue to highlight the University's distinctive appeal to global audiences. The Master of Architectural Design Management campaign has generated eight international student applications for Semester 1 2026, reflecting growing interest in AUT's specialised offerings. Phase two of the China Campaign is now in progress, supported by planning for a promotional video to showcase the Master of Global Studies programme. These initiatives are designed to strengthen AUT's global visibility and position the university as a destination for learners seeking future-focused education.

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 embed sustainability across its campuses and operations. The recently completed refurbishment of the AG building included decarbonisation work, further reducing reliance on fossil fuels and supporting AUT's long-term environmental goals.

Staff and student engagement remained strong throughout August. Initiatives included native tree planting at South Campus, active travel activations, and the Reduce Less Waste campaign. AUT also supported a student-led Climate Advocacy Forum, which drew strong participation and discussion.

Te Mātāpuna's Green Impact programme closed for 2025 with staff and student teams implementing over 400 sustainability actions. These efforts reflect AUT's commitment to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and collective action.

6.2 Library and Learning Support

Te Mātāpuna (Library and Learning Services) continues to play a vital role in supporting research and learning across AUT. During Research Week, Te Mātāpuna strengthened engagement with academic staff and postgraduate students through a series of well-attended workshops and services. These included the "Researcher Health Check," which helps academics assess and track research visibility, openness and impact, and sessions focused on ethical use of artificial intelligence in research and practical approaches to data management.

The Copilot Writing Lab, which explores the use of generative AI to enhance research writing, was among the most popular offerings, with full attendance and strong demand for follow-up sessions. Te Mātāpuna also contributed to the Postgraduate Research Symposium with its "First Steps to Publishing" workshop, a consistently valued resource for emerging researchers.

Following Research Week, Te Mātāpuna will participate in the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences Research Roadshow, offering Researcher Health Checks and other support services as part of the "Research Marketplace".

6.3 Leadership and Development

AUT continues to invest in leadership capability through targeted development programmes and resources. Over the past two months, several initiatives concluded successfully, including *Intentional Leadership*, *Ethnic Women in Leadership* and *Conversations That Matter*. The Ethnic Women in Leadership programme wrapped up with a graduation event that celebrated personal and professional growth, highlighting the strong sense of community built within the cohort.

Progress continues the development of the People Leader Essentials programme, with Module 1 underway and a timeline mapped for future modules. Work is also advancing on the creation of a Leadership Hub on TUIA to support ongoing development, though integration with existing platforms presents a complex challenge.

Since the launch of *Aronui Ora* in 2023, 272 people leaders have engaged with the programme, with 93 completing the three core modules and 54 completing the full programme. These numbers reflect growing momentum in building cultural capability across AUT's leadership.

6.4 Culture and People

Work continues to embed *Thriving People, Thriving Future*, AUT's People Plan 2025–2030, through staff sessions, communications and planning. A KPI framework is in development to track progress against the plan's 12 objectives, and priority initiatives are being identified for inclusion in the 2026 business planning cycle.

Following the *Your Voice* staff survey, actions are underway across two of the three priority areas. A final draft of the Code of Conduct has been prepared for staff-wide consultation, and a wellbeing plan is in development, with a launch planned for November. Progress on supporting innovation is yet to be reported.

Planning is also underway for the final Vice-Chancellor's Fono of 2025, which will include an update on the AUT Brand Refresh and an interactive session on time management. The *Navigate* Professional Staff Conference has seen strong interest, with registrations reaching capacity and a waitlist now in place.

AUT continues to advance disability inclusion through policy development and sector engagement. A revised draft of the Reasonable Accommodation Guidelines is being finalised, and AUT was the only public tertiary institution represented at a recent hui hosted by Whaikaha | Ministry of Disabled People, focused on inclusive recruitment and workplace practices.

6.5 Spaces and Places

Facilities Services maintained steady performance across July and August, with no material concerns reported in relation to compliance, health and safety or service delivery. Preparations across AUT's three campuses supported a successful AUT LIVE event, with positive feedback indicating that campus presentation contributed to a welcoming experience for visitors.

Progress continues across key capital works projects, including the development of wellness and recreation facilities, refurbishment of teaching and learning spaces and planning for future infrastructure needs. These initiatives reflect AUT's commitment to providing high-quality environments that support student experience, staff collaboration and academic excellence.

Recent space planning efforts have focused on enhancing flexibility and connectivity across campuses. Refurbished spaces are being designed to support Activity Based Working and shared use, with positive feedback from staff already occupying newly refreshed areas. Wider access to these spaces will be promoted as part of AUT's evolving workplace strategy.

6.6 Enterprise and Service

AUT's Commercial Services team continues to support campus vibrancy and engagement through events, hospitality and retail services. Across July and August, 123 events were delivered, welcoming over 11,800 guests. Catering services supported more than 4,000 guests, and retail outlets served over 76,000 customers, with Refuel now offering extended hours into the evening.

Highlights for the period included AUT LIVE, which saw record registration numbers, and mid-year Graduation. AUT Events has been invited to support future graduation ceremonies, reflecting the team's growing role in delivering high-quality experiences for students and their whānau.

Planning is underway to ensure continuity of textbook supply for Semester 1 2026, following changes in supplier arrangements. The final quarter of the year is expected to be busy, with a full calendar of events and conferences scheduled across AUT's campuses.



PART A

OPEN AGENDA ITEM

6

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Chancellor's Report

Date: 29 September 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE CHANCELLOR'S VERBAL REPORT



PART A OPEN AGENDA ITEM	7.1
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Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Report from Academic Board

Date: 19 September 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE ACADEMIC BOARD REPORT AND MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JULY AND 25 AUGUST 2025.

The minutes are in supplementary papers.

Academic Board Report to Council

Meeting held 28 July 2025

Strategic Matters and Policy Developments

- **Academic Student Representative Model**

AUTSA President, A Lemmer, provided an update on the academic student representative model, a central structure led by AUTSA. The model was developed in 2023 and rolled out in 2024. It covers undergraduate degree programmes and involves representatives from each year group within majors who link with Faculty Student representatives. Training is provided at the beginning of each year and as a refresher prior to semester two. Connections with faculty staff continue to be built. It was noted that the Postgraduate Research School currently convenes student advisory groups and is keen to see them more integrated with the central system.

- **Academic and Capital Plan**

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on the Academic and Capital Plan highlighting that it: is AUT's roadmap for delivering Te Kete; lays out our academic direction and the infrastructure needed to enable it; responds to big trends and shifts in our environment; has been shaped by input from AUT whānau - staff, students, iwi partners, industry, and Council; takes a long-term view (to 2035); and, is a living document. Key drivers for change and an overview of the academic direction to 2035 were outlined.

Points raised by Academic Board members included: the future positioning for South Campus; the different context for change now that the University is 25 years old compared to when it was younger; a need to make explicit how teaching the ethics of technology will be factored into the Plan; and, the increasing impact of political events and elections on the education landscape.

Committees of Academic Board

- The following recommendations from the **Programme Approval and Review Committee** were approved.

Academic Board approved submission to CUAP of the following proposals for new programmes:

1. Master of Applied Artificial Intelligence, Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Artificial Intelligence, Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Artificial Intelligence
2. Master of Applied Psychology, Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Psychology, Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Psychology
3. Master of Creative Innovation and Technology, Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Innovation and Technology, Postgraduate Certificate in Creative Innovation and Technology
4. Master of Digital Transformation Leadership, Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Transformation Leadership, Postgraduate Certificate in Digital Transformation Leadership
5. Master of Human Performance Leadership, Postgraduate Diploma in Human Performance Leadership, Postgraduate Certificate in Human Performance Leadership

Qualifications numbered 1-5 are 180-point masters, postgraduate diplomas and postgraduate certificates that are part of AUT Online.

6. Master of Occupational Therapy Practice
240-point graduate entry master's qualification
7. Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Paramedic Practice
Postgraduate diploma with two specialisations: Extended Care Paramedicine and Critical Care Paramedicine

- The following recommendations from the **Academic Planning Subgroup** were approved.

Academic Board approved the closure of the following specialisations and majors to new enrolments:

- Criminology and Criminal Justice in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) – from Semester 2 2025
- Māori Media in the Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma in Arts, Graduate Certificate in Arts, Diploma in Arts – from Semester 1 2026

Academic Board approved the re-opening of the following qualifications from Trimester 1 2026:

- Master of Global Business and Postgraduate Diploma in Global Business from Trimester 1 2026.

Other

Academic Board approved the reintroduction of the classification Third Class of Honours for Bachelors Honours programmes only which will bring it into line with other Engineering degrees in New Zealand. This will be achieved through changes to:

- Programme regulations for the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
- The Standard Qualification Regulations.

Academic Board Report to Council

Meeting held 25 August 2025

Strategic Matters and Policy Developments

- **ANZ Publisher Negotiations with the Big 4 Academic Publishers**

K Tairi and G Barthorpe provided an overview of the Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL) which provides a consortium service, advocacy and policy for university libraries and procures approximately 50% of scholarly content purchased sector-wide. All universities in Australia and New Zealand are members. Agreements with four major publishers (Elsevier, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis and Wiley) which represent 57% of CAUL agreements, are due for renewal this year. The negotiation team has been expanded to include Universities New Zealand and Universities Australia in an effort to collectively challenge the traditional academic publishing model. Issues with current agreements, negotiation objectives and CAUL's negotiation strategy were outlined. It is anticipated agreements will be confirmed, or contingency plans initiated, by December 2025.

Committees of Academic Board

- The following recommendation from the **Programme Approval and Review Committee** was approved.
Academic Board approved submission to CUAP of the following Graduating Year Review report:

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) specialisations in International Tourism Management and International Hospitality Management.

Other - nil



Council Agenda Paper

Subject: **Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report: July- September 2025**

Date: **19 September 2025**

From: **Stephen Davies, Assistant Vice Chancellor People and Culture**

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 17 September 2025, with information and actions that have occurred or been reported over that period.

This report intends to provide the information deemed necessary to meet the due diligence role expectations for Officers (of the PCBU) including increasing HSW knowledge, enhancing the understanding of risks, monitoring and managing information, compliance and assurance, verification and oversight.

2. Governance Knowledge and Awareness

Health & Safety Governance Training – AUT Council & Executive Programme Overview

The training provides a tailored governance training programme for both Council and Executive. It consists of four two-hour modules, aligned to the IoD/WorkSafe NZ *Health and Safety Governance Good Practice Guide (2024)* and Business Leaders' Forum resources. Modules cover:

1. **Governance Basics** – roles vs. management, tone from the top, duties evolution, accountability frameworks.
2. **Governing Risk** – ISO 31000 principles, risk landscape (acute, chronic, catastrophic), critical risk focus, assurance via 3 Lines of Defence.
3. **Overlapping Duties** – legal obligations, ecosystem of influence/control, managing relationships while maintaining accountability.
4. **Monitoring What Matters** – limits of Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR), identifying success factors, reporting capability, structuring Council reports for oversight and foresight.

The training is designed to be interactive, reflective, and AUT-context specific, combining professional directors, executives, and staff/student representatives.

Timeframe - Proposed delivery: **October 2025 – September 2026**

Implications for AUT

This training will provide AUT’s most senior decision-makers with the shared knowledge, governance tools, and oversight capability necessary to:

- Demonstrate due diligence under HSWA.
- Set a strong “tone from the top” for health and safety.
- Strengthen assurance, accountability, and reporting practices.
- Build resilience in managing critical risks across the university.

Key developments in legislation, regulation, or guidance

New Zealand is undergoing a significant overhaul of its health and safety legislation, with reforms announced in 2025 that aim to simplify compliance, reduce regulatory burden, and sharpen the focus on managing serious workplace risks. Below is a summary of the key changes and how they might intersect with university environments:

Proposed Changes to Health and Safety Legislation

These reforms are part of the ACT-National Coalition Agreement and represent the most substantial updates since the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015:

- **Focus on Critical Risks** The legislation will shift from a broad hazard-based approach to one that prioritizes *critical risks*—those that could result in death, serious injury, or serious illness.
- **Streamlined Incident Reporting** Only *significant* workplace incidents will need to be reported to WorkSafe, reducing administrative load.
- **Clarification of Governance vs Operational Duties** Directors and boards will focus on strategic oversight, while managers handle day-to-day safety operations. This could impact university councils and senior leadership teams by clarifying their responsibilities.
- **Revised Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs)** Industries, including education, may propose their own ACOPs, subject to government approval. Compliance with an ACOP would be deemed compliance with the law.
- **Landowner Liability Adjustments** Universities that allow recreational use of their land (e.g., sports fields, walking tracks) may benefit from reduced liability, as responsibility shifts to the organization conducting the activity.

Implications for Universities

While universities are not directly singled out in the reform documents, several areas are likely to be affected:

- **Research Labs and High-Risk Activities** Departments dealing with chemicals, machinery, or fieldwork will still need robust safety systems focused on critical risks.
- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Hazards** Critics of the reforms warn that the narrowed focus on physical risks may neglect emerging issues like workplace stress and mental health—key concerns in academic environments.

- **Governance Structures** University councils and boards may need to reassess how they oversee health and safety, ensuring strategic engagement without overstepping into operational roles.
 - **Custom Codes of Practice** Universities could collaborate to develop sector-specific ACOPs for teaching labs, student activities, or campus operations, potentially streamlining compliance.
-

Benchmarking against sector good practice

Several initiatives have been implemented in the last three months to help assess our alignment with HSW best practice with our peers.

Science Diving New Zealand

On 21st August AUT was represented at Science Diving NZ (SDNZ). This is the sector representative group that sets training requirements for the Code of Compliance for a Scientific Divers and the associated standards. The group is aligned with WorkSafe and recognised for its oversight of Scientific Diving. The intent of membership is to ensure alignment of any AUT policies and procedures for scientific diving and or snorkelling with best practice.

NZ Universities Haz Subs Group

AUT is contributing to a NZ Universities Hazardous Substances Special Interest Group being established with its first formal meeting on the 27th of August. The purpose is to progress Universities NZ appeals to the Ministers for Tertiary Education and WorkSafe to intervene in the implementation of overly restrictive legislation.

Overlapping Duties in the Health Sector

AUT is leading the re-engagement of the Tertiary sector with Te Whatu Ora on the management of overlapping duties. We completed a map of all the relative engagements involved to ensure the safety of our students on the BSc. Nursing course between course start and completion including on placements. That is being shared for discussion between the sector and Te Whatu Ora to support discussion on ensuring we cover any gaps in our oversight of students on placement.

Association for Biosafety Australia and New Zealand (ABSANZ)

Discussions have commenced with the Chair of the Regulatory Committee for ABSANZ on the development of training for Containment Facility personnel for NZ Universities. This follows the last two Ministry of Primary Industry (MPI) audits where MPI confirmed they have no capacity or capability to deliver Biocontainment Facility training for our staff for the foreseeable future. All NZ Universities are affected by this issue. Achievement of this goal will be the single most significant opportunity for raising standards across the Biocontainment space in NZ.

3. Understanding AUT's Operations and Risk Landscape

Te Ara Haumarū – The Safety Pathway Programme addresses the recommendations of the 2024/25 audit and review programme; this remains a significant portion of the current work within HSW.

As reflected in the below table, 41 items (15%) have been completed, with a further 181 items in progress at the time of reporting. This represents significant work currently being undertaken, ranging from documentation to meet compliance, health risk monitoring, operational reviews, induction and

training work and strategic initiatives. The programme is working towards 60% completion of recommendations by the end of 2025.

Workstreams	Total Rec's	% of Rec's	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Not Required	% Complete
Regulatory Compliance	130	47%	12	86	24	8	18%
Safe Workplace, Safe Worker	19	7%	0	19	0	0	0%
Risk Prevention & Control	52	19%	6	33	6	0	12%
Digital Solutions	19	7%	1	14	4	0	21%
Building Maintenance Remedial Work	37	14%	11	17	6	0	16%
Organisational Management	8	3%	2	4	1	0	13%
Strategic AUT wide Initiative/Future Strategic Planning	9	3%	1	8	0	0	0%
Totals	274		33	181	41	8	15%

See appendix 1 – Te Ara Haumaru high level timeframes & progress for further details.

The programme is working towards an overall completion date of end March 2026 for the tactical recommendations and strategic initiatives. The goal is to have the following scope ready for semester 1 2026: regulatory and compliance controls, the induction and training programme, risk assessment, and the audit and service maintenance work, alongside the digital solutions to support them.

Critical risk themes and trends

Ongoing work in the School of Science to achieve and maintain compliance particularly regarding Biocontainment, whilst improving, continues to be an area for improvement. Recent laboratory transformative work, in conjunction with Estates, alongside operational improvements are reducing the likelihood of compliance breaches, but ongoing diligence and enhanced risk management practices will be required for the foreseeable future to keep within the bounds of our approved methods of work.

Events by Faculty/Directorate (Comparison with Change)

Faculty/Directorate	Events (28/06–18/09/2025)	Events (28/03–27/06/2025)	Change (Δ)	% Change
Business, Economics and Law	1	3	-2	-66.7%
Culture and Society	2	2	0	0.0%
Design and Creative Technology	5	8	-3	-37.5%
Estates	6	7	-1	-14.3%
Health and Environmental Sciences	67	55	+12	+21.8%
ICT	1	0	+1	N/A
People & Culture	2	0	+2	N/A
Student Services and Administration	11	10	+1	+10.0%
Te Mātāpuna (Library and Learning Services)	1	2	-1	-50.0%

Key Insights

- **Health and Environmental Sciences** saw the largest increase (+12 events, +21.8%) as a result of actively encouraging both staff and students to report incidents as well as near misses.
- **Business, Economics and Law** and **Design and Creative Technology** experienced the sharpest declines.
- **Student Services and Administration** rose slightly, while **Estates** and **Library Services** decreased.

Event Status (28/06–18/09/2025)

Status	Count
Closed	45
In progress	54

Observations - A large proportion of incidents remain **in progress (54)**, slightly higher than **closed (45)**.

4. Risk Management Capability

Progress on audit recommendations and corrective actions

The Te Ara Haumaru programme is addressing the 2024/25 audit recommendations. There are three audits planned to be carried out in the latter part of this year including for:

- Hazardous Substances Roles & Responsibilities (Internal Audit)
- Food Safety (HSW)
- Transport Safety (HSW)

The first is underway, the latter two audits are currently in planning and will be completed by external providers before the end of year.

Facilities, infrastructure, and equipment issues

The recent wet weather has highlighted a number of leaks and water ingress across our facilities. The level of cooperation and coordination between users and those that maintain our facilities is variable across our campuses. Greater cooperation is required to prioritise repairs for action and effectively take oversight.

Laboratory asset management and their maintenance is within scope of the Te Ara Haumaru programme. The review of laboratories reveals significant aged equipment, that may not be recorded, is likely unserviceable and potentially requires repair. Implementation of a Laboratory Asset Management digital solution is within programme scope.

Staff wellbeing and support programmes (EAP, wellbeing survey insights)

Little change has occurred in this data over the previous reporting period. Comparison is being made to assess the differences between EAP data and the results for the wellbeing survey reported at the last meeting. Any insights if any, will be provided in the next report.

5. Monitoring and Information Flow

Work is underway on the HSW software 'Noggin' to allow easier recording and reporting of risks; performance dashboards and key indicators are included in this work. Support for easier escalation and basic Noggin training to report incidents, allocate incidents for oversight to others and getting basic reports done are part of the work being done by external contractors, with implementation expected in the next 3 months.

6. Compliance and Assurance

Updates on compliance with HSWA and other legislation (Biosecurity, Radiation, Food, Electricity, Medicines, etc.)

Compliance with Officer and PCBU Duties are currently the focus for the HSW team. This is complicated by the lack of consistent systems below the Executive to effectively drive compliance as part of BAU and the lack of consistent roles to give effect to these responsibilities. There is work occurring to address these issues particularly in FHES where there is a myriad of complex technical issues related to compliance that require oversight.

7. Forward Outlook

Priorities and planned initiatives to February 2026

- Implementation of above-mentioned Noggin functionality improvements.
- Roll out of Safety Management System guidance for Executive responsibilities and Risk Management.
- Continued work under the Te Ara Haumaru programme to address H&S recommendations
- Greater clarity on Strategic Initiatives in Te Ara Haumaru is expected in the next reporting period to address the structural contributors to non-compliance
- Development of H&S induction and training under the programme
- Completion of Incident Investigation training for HSW staff

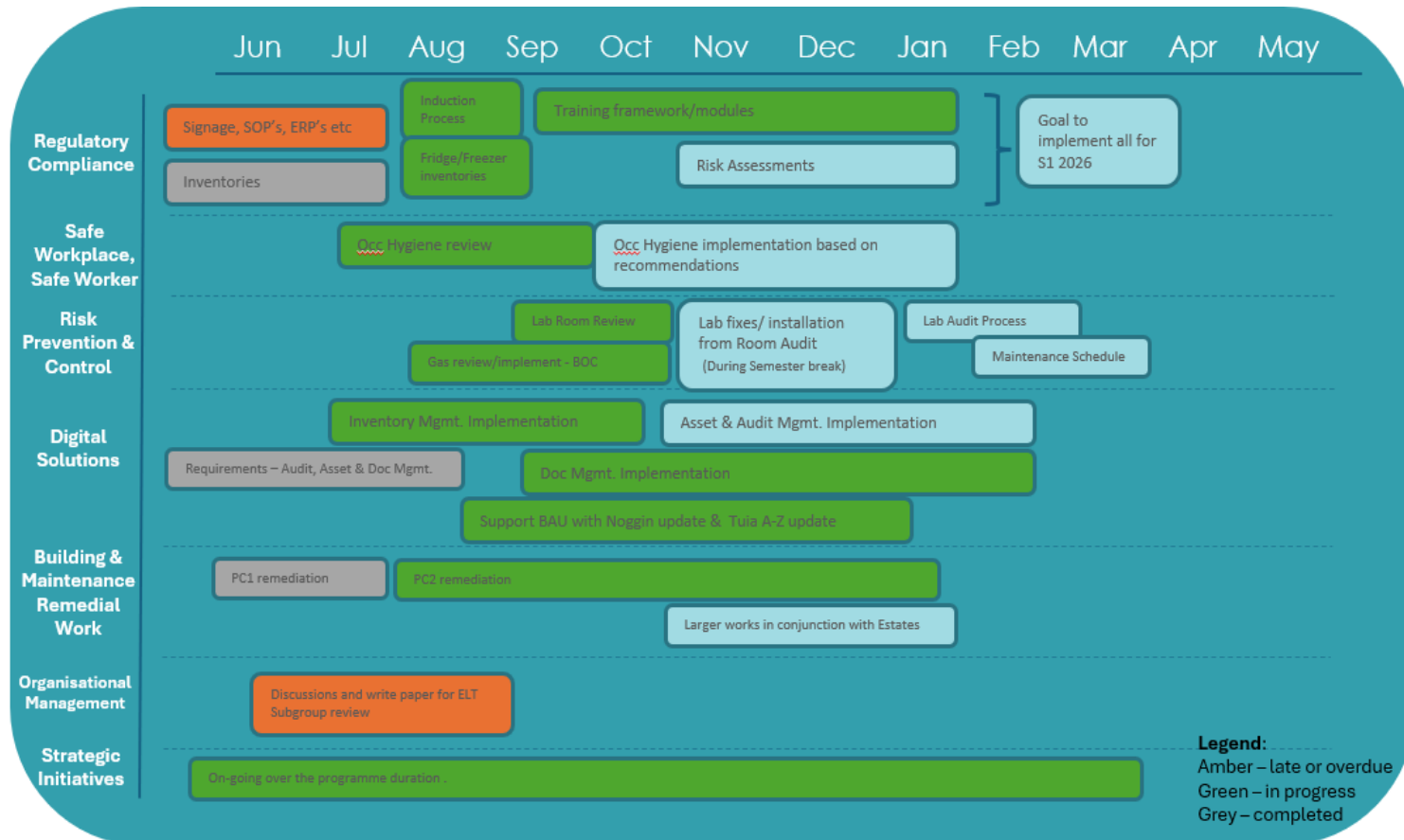
8. Conclusion

This report is the first of a new format being developed for Council. Feedback on the structure, content, value and language would be appreciated. It is expected that Noggin dashboard reporting will be improved by the next report and significantly improve the presentation of accurate and timely data.

Appendix 1 – Te Ara Haumaru high level timeframes & progress

Note 1: Signage and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) are completed, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are a large body of work and are expected to be completed alongside training, as they complement each other.

Note 2: The Organisational Management workstream is delayed due to unanticipated absence, timeframes will be revised for the next reporting period.





PART A OPEN AGENDA ITEM	13.1
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Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Update from the President of AUTSA – Alicia Lemmer

Date: 29 September 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AUTSA



PART A OPEN AGENDA ITEM	13.2
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Council Agenda Paper

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

Date: 29 September 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

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



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: 29 September 2025

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: **29th September, 2025**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE SEPTEMBER 2025 SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE.

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

Background / Executive Summary

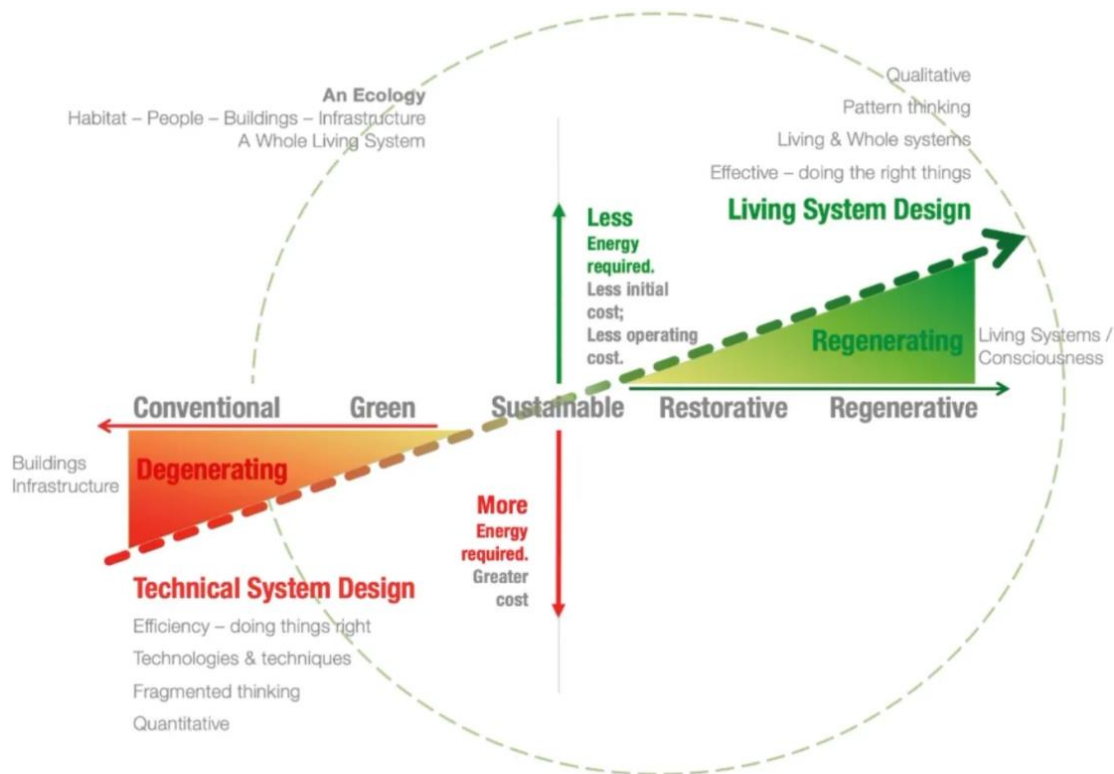
This paper provides an update regarding the following:

- AUT's Sustainability and Regeneration Plan;
- Draft AUT Climate Scenarios;
- AUT's Net Zero Carbon Aspiration;
- AUT's verified CO₂e emissions for 2024; and
- International Students' CO₂e emissions.

AUT's Draft Sustainability and Regeneration Plan

A new sustainability and regeneration plan is being developed. There are two significant changes from the previous Plan. The first is that a key element of the Plan is regeneration; a broad visualisation of what regeneration means in comparison to sustainability is provided below. With regeneration, the focus is on systems change, doing this successfully requires external partnerships and our suppliers moving with AUT. It requires authentic commitment, within AUT, to strive for regeneration and avoid accusations of greenwashing.

The second change is the continuous improvement of our planning framework. The Strategy and Planning Group is reviewing Plan oversight and the associated funding process. This will result in clearly defined high level objectives for our sustainability and regeneration Plan, an associated work programme, and forecast budget required to deliver this. Benefits, and KPIs will align with these activities and senior leadership accountabilities will be clear. While the plan is under development, many aspects of the current work programme are progressing and some of these are outlined below.



Source: Regenesys - Bill Reed

AUT's Climate Scenarios

Climate change is a strategic risk for AUT, and it also offers some real opportunities. At this stage we have four different climate scenarios that reflects the New Zealand tertiary education sector and we are adapting them to reflect the AUT context. For each scenario we are considering the risks and opportunities for AUT. Risks include both physical (associated with physical impacts of climate change) and transition (related to the transition to a lower carbon economy). Specific staff and students will have an opportunity to provide feedback about the draft AUT climate scenarios and our risks and opportunities. Once AUT's climate related risks and opportunities are identified and confirmed the risk management framework will evolve to these.

Net Zero Carbon – Progress

As stated in Te Kete, AUT has an aspiration to be a net zero carbon university. AUT's continuing to reduce emissions and there will be some that we cannot abate. So, how can we achieve net zero carbon, whilst creating positive impact for our research, partnerships and teaching?

The Regenerative Environments Research Network and the sustainability team are considering possible options, from purchasing carbon offsets through to working in partnership with a landowner to regenerate the land. Each approach has distinct advantages and disadvantages relating to carbon and broader biodiversity aspects.

External calculators provide very approximate figures of the number of trees required to offset a set amount of emissions. There are several uncertainties, including confidence in data from the external calculator, what planting mix would be most appropriate and quantification of other positive benefits, including water quality and biodiversity. The Regenerative Environments Network and the sustainability team are utilising Living Labs data to refine the initial calculations and provide information around the above-mentioned uncertainties so that AUT can progress forwards with a strong research based approach to net zero carbon.

CO₂e Emissions - 2024

AUT's verified CO₂e emissions for 2024 were 9,104 tonnes, a decrease of 33% against the 2018 baseline year. Our five main emissions sources, representing 90% of AUT's total emissions are natural gas, electricity, air travel, student commuter travel and staff commuter travel. All five of these emissions sources decreased in 2024, when compared with our baseline year. The initiatives highlighted in the February update to Council still hold in terms of an approach to reducing emissions.

International Students' CO₂e Emissions

International students provide a strong revenue stream for AUT and support our financial sustainability. There are obvious carbon implications for increasing our international student numbers. Strategy and Planning has developed a model to estimate emissions from our international students' air travel using actual international students' data (such as home country), as well as assumptions around the frequency of travel between New Zealand and their home country (note: these will need further validation). Potential approaches around how AUT maintains our financial sustainability, whilst addressing the carbon implications are being presented to AUT's Executive team for discussion.

We expect to update Council on this matter at the December meeting.

Conclusion

The key priorities for the remainder of 2025 include:

- Finalisation of AUT's Sustainability and Regeneration Plan, which will include objectives, targets and initiatives;
- Developing AUT's climate scenarios and subsequent risks and opportunities; and
- Progressing the current programme for AUT to achieve net zero carbon, including the establishment of carbon budgets for air travel for faculties and divisions.



PART A

OPEN AGENDA ITEM

13.5

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Council and Committee Meeting Schedule - 2026

Date: 19 September 2025

Author: Council Secretary

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026

COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE FOR 2026

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 13/04 Agenda Deadline 02/04		Meeting 29/06 Agenda Deadline 19/06			Meeting 21/09 Agenda Deadline 11/09		Meeting 23/11 Agenda Deadline 13/11	
Council People & Culture Committee (P&C) Mondays 2.30pm – 5.30pm All Meetings Held at AUT City Campus			Meeting 13/04 Agenda Deadline 02/04			Meeting 13/07 Agenda Deadline 03/07				Meeting 23/11 Agenda Deadline 13/11	
Council Meeting (FCM) Mondays 3.30pm – 6pm	Meeting 23/02 AGM 3.30pm - 3.45pm FCM 3.45pm - 6pm AUT City Campus Agenda Deadline 14/02		Meeting 28/04 FCM 3.30 – 6pm AUT City Campus Agenda Deadline 17/04	Meeting 25/05 H&S Tour 2.00pm – 3.30pm FCM 3.30 – 6pm AUT Sth Campus Agenda Deadline 15/05		Meeting 27/07 H&S Tour 2 - 3.30pm FCM 3.30 - 6pm AUT Nth Campus Agenda Deadline 17/07		Meeting 28/09 H&S Tour 2 - 3.30pm FCM 3.30 - 6pm AUT City Campus Agenda Deadline 18/09	Meeting 19/10 SCM AUT City Campus Agenda Deadline 09/10		Meeting 07/12 FCM AUT City Campus Agenda Deadline 27/11

FCM – Full Council Meeting / SCM – Special Council Meeting (As Required)