



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 3 – EDUCATION

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

(Whan)

Hearing: Friday 29 August 2025

Answers due by: Responses due by Thursday 25 September 2025

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC
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PROFESSOR G.Q. MAX LU AO

University investments

- (1) What is the total sum of university investments, both direct and indirect, in fossil fuels?
- (2) Can you please provide a complete list of partnerships with fossil fuel companies or lobby groups over the last 5 years?
- (3) What is the total sum of university investments, both direct and indirect, in Israeli corporations?
- (4) Can you please provide a complete list of partnerships with Israeli corporations over the last 5 years?
- (5) What is the total sum of university investments, both direct and indirect, in weapons corporations?
- (6) Can you please provide a complete list of partnerships with weapons corporations or lobby groups over the last 5 years?
- (7) What is the total sum of university investments, both direct and indirect, in gambling companies?
- (8) How much does the university have directly or indirectly invested in gambling companies or poker machine manufacturers?
- (9) Can you please provide a complete list of partnerships with the gambling industry over the last 5 years?
- (10) What existing partnerships does the University have with Israeli Academic Institutions?
- (11) What is the total sum of money held in any assets with, or investment in directly or indirectly, the following companies:
 - (a) BAE Systems?
 - (b) Lockheed Martin?
 - (c) Northrop Grumman?

- (d) Elbit Systems?
- (e) Electro Optic Systems?
- (f) Raytheon?
- (g) Thales?
- (h) Boeing?
- (i) Chrysos Corporation?
- (j) NIOA Group?
- (k) Airbus Group?
- (l) ASC?
- (m) IBM?
- (n) QINETIQ?
- (o) SAAB?
- (p) DXC?
- (q) ExecuJet MRO Services?
- (r) Dassault?
- (s) Bouygues?
- (t) NSO Group?
- (u) Q Cyber Technologies?
- (v) Intellexa?
- (w) Maravilhas Solutions?
- (x) Stone & Chalk?
- (y) AustCyber?
- (z) Red Piranha?
- (aa) Willyama Services?
- (bb) Alethea
- (cc) Cybersixgill?
- (dd) Alchemy Security Consulting?

(ee) 11point2?
(ff) Vectra?
(gg) Splunk Sention?
(hh) R1i.Technology?
(ii) Providence Consulting Group?
(jj) Redarc?
(kk) Hanwha?
(ll) Ferra?
(mm) HTA?
(nn) Quickstep?
(oo) Ionize?
(pp) Insync Solutions?
(qq) Fifth Domain?
(rr) DTEX?
(ss) CyberOps?
(tt) Wabtec Corporation?
(uu) SOIO?
(vv) School of Information Operations?
(ww) Coherics?
(xx) Caterpillar?
(yy) Dassault Systèmes?
(zz) General Dynamics?
(aaa) shkosh?
(bbb) Rheinmetall AG?
(ccc) Rolls-Royce Power Systems?
(ddd) RTX?
(eee) ThyssenKrupp?

- (fff) What is the total monetary value of funding received by the University from these companies in the form of:
- i. Research grants or other sources of funding?
 - ii. Sponsorship of facilities, programs or events?
 - iii. Scholarships?
 - iv. Consulting fees for university expertise?
 - v. Licensing fees?
 - vi. Equipment donations or discounted purchases?
- (ggg) Has the University paid money to any of these companies for:
- i. Licensing fees to use corporate software, databases, or technology?
 - ii. Equipment and service purchases?
 - iii. Consulting fees?
 - iv. Facility rental or co-location costs?
- (hhh) What is the total monetary value of costs paid by the University to these companies?
- (iii) Has the University made any joint venture investments with any of these companies?
- (jjj) Will the University commit to divesting from these companies, who have been named by international lawyers as complicit in Israel's genocide in Gaza?
- (12) What is the total sum of money held in any assets with, or investment in directly or indirectly, the following companies:
- (a) Woodside Energy Group?
 - (b) Santos Limited?
 - (c) Origin Energy?
 - (d) Beach Energy Limited?
 - (e) Karoon Energy Ltd?
 - (f) AED Oil?
 - (g) Ampol?
 - (h) Australian Worldwide Exploration?

- (i) Beach Energy?
- (j) Blue Ensign Technologies?
- (k) ExxonMobil Australia?
- (l) Gull Petroleum?
- (m) HWR Group?
- (n) Penrite?
- (o) Queensland Energy Resources?
- (p) Roc Oil Company?
- (q) Senex Energy?
- (r) Shell Australia?
- (s) Woodside Energy?
- (t) Xtract Oil?
- (u) Chevron Corporation?
- (v) Shell PLC?
- (w) BHP?
- (x) BP PLC?
- (y) Anglo Coal Australia Ltd?
- (z) Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd?
- (aa) Hunter Valley Energy Coal (HVEC)?
- (bb) Centennial Coal?
- (cc) Coalpac Pty Ltd?
- (dd) Cornwall Coal?
- (ee) Donaldson Coal Pty Ltd?
- (ff) Enhance Place Pty Ltd?
- (gg) Ensham Resources Pty Ltd?
- (hh) Felix Resources Limited?
- (ii) Yancoal?

(jj) Foxleigh Mining Pty Ltd?

(kk) Idemitsu?

(ll) Ensham Resources?

(mm) Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd?

(nn) Appin West?

(oo) Jellinbah Group?

(pp) Lithgow Coal Company Pty Ltd?

(qq) Macarthur Coal?

(rr) Muswellbrook Coal Company Ltd?

(ss) New Hope Group?

(tt) Peabody Energy Australia?

(uu) Rio Tinto Coal Australia?

(vv) Vale?

(ww) Wesfarmers Coal Ltd?

(xx) Whitehaven Coal?

(yy) Glencore Holdings Pty Limited?

(zz) ActewAGL?

(aaa) Alinta Energy?

(bbb) APA Group (Australia)?

(ccc) Australian Gas Networks?

(ddd) Carbon Energy?

(eee) Engie Australia?

(fff) Fremantle Gas and Coke Company?

(ggg) Gladstone LNG?

(hhh) Jemena?

(iii) Kleenheat Gas?

(jjj) Linc Energy?

(kkk) Multinet Gas?

(lll) QGC?

(mmm) South Australian Gas Company?

(nnn) State Energy Commission of Western Australia?

(ooo) What is the total monetary value of funding received by the University from these companies in the form of:

- i. Research grants or other sources of funding?
- ii. Sponsorship of facilities, programs or events?
- iii. Scholarships?
- iv. Consulting fees for university expertise?
- v. Licensing fees?
- vi. Equipment donations or discounted purchases?

(ppp) Has the University paid money to any of these companies for:

- i. Licensing fees to use corporate software, databases, or technology?
- ii. Equipment and service purchases?
- iii. Consulting fees?
- iv. Facility rental or co-location costs?

(qqq) What is the total monetary value of costs paid by the University to these companies?

(rrr) Has the University made any joint venture investments with any of these companies?

(sss) Will the University commit to divesting from these fossil fuel companies?

Jillian Segal Recommendations

- (13) What steps has your University taken to push back against Jillian Segal's report's recommendation for government funding to be withheld from universities, programs or individuals within universities?
- (14) Given Jillian Segal claimed in her report that "We are on a dangerous trajectory where young people raised on a diet of disinformation and misinformation about Jews today risk becoming fully-fledged antisemites tomorrow", can you point to any specific examples of this disinformation?

- (a) Do you share the concerns of your students that genuine criticism of the genocide in Gaza is being conflated with criticism of Jewish people?
- (15) Is an individual who categorises Jewish organisations with which they disagree as “a fringe group with no representative mandate... [that] does not speak for the vast majority of Jewish Australians, nor for the long-established community organisations that have led the fight against antisemitism for decades. Its opposition to the IHRA definition is completely out of step with national and international consensus including the Australian Government” an appropriate person to be prescribing university policy on the protection of Jewish students?
 - (16) Is an individual whose husband donates to Advance Australia, a far-right lobby group who have supported Nazi-backed rallies, an appropriate person to be prescribing university policy on the protection of Jewish students?
 - (17) Are you aware that your university’s definition has been described as “closely aligned” with the IHRA definition?
 - (18) Are you aware of the federal court judgement in Wertheim v Haddad [2025] FCA 720, where it was ruled “not all Jews are Zionists or support the actions of Israel in Gaza and that disparagement of Zionism constitutes disparagement of a philosophy or ideology and not a race or ethnic group. Needless to say, political criticism of Israel, however inflammatory or adversarial, is not by its nature criticism of Jews in general or based on Jewish racial or ethnic identity...The conclusion that it is not antisemitic to criticise Israel is the corollary of the conclusion that to blame Jews for the actions of Israel is antisemitic; the one flows from the other.” ?
 - (19) Are you concerned that your university’s definition of antisemitism may contravene a federal court judgement?
 - (a) If not, on what basis?
 - (b) If so, what steps will you take to address this?
 - (c) How many students have faced misconduct proceedings resulting from protest activity in:
 - (d) 2024?
 - (e) 2025?

Misconduct

- (20) How many warnings have been issued to students resulting from protest activity in:
- (a) 2024?
 - (b) 2025?
- (21) Has the university employed external contractors or consultants to manage the misconduct and complaints processes?
- (a) If so, who?
 - (b) If so, how much money has been spent?
 - (c) If so, what training or advice is provided to ensure the procedural fairness of disciplinary proceedings?

StandWithUs Australia and Israel-Is Affiliation

- (22) How many events has your university conducted with StandWithUsAustralia?
- (23) How many events has your university conducted with Israel-IS?
- (24) Who at your University was involved in the decision-making process for approval of these events?
- (25) Does your University acknowledge that affiliations with these organisations, who seek to rationalise Israel's genocide in Gaza in the view of many human rights advocates, has harmful affects on Palestinian and Lebanese students on your campus?
- (26) Before having an event with IDF soldiers, did your university conduct any consultation with Palestinian students?
- (27) Does your University now acknowledge this was an error?
- (28) Has any mental health support been offered to Palestinian students in the wake of this decision?

Protest

- (29) How many protests have not been authorised under your University's protest policy in:
- (30) 2020?
 - (31) 2021?
 - (32) 2022?
 - (33) 2023?

(34) 2024?

(35) 2025?

Surveillance

(36) Can you categorically rule out any knowledge of direction given to University staff to surveil the social media accounts of pro-Palestine protestors on your campus?

(a) If not, can you please detail what formal and publicly available policy the University has in place for this process?

(37) Can you categorically rule out that the University uses its Wifi network to surveil students in any way?

(38) Has your University made any changes to its Wifi Terms and Conditions since 1 January 2023?

(a) If so, what was the date or dates that the Terms and Conditions changed?

(b) Can you please provide the text of the exact changes made?

(39) Can you please outline the process undertaken at your University where a student faced disciplinary action for tapping on the window of the Michael Spence Building?

(a) On what date did University staff become aware of this incident?

(b) On what date was disciplinary action taken in response to this incident?

(c) What was the nature of the disciplinary action?

People's Inquiry into Campus Free Speech on Palestine

(40) Have you read the Preliminary Report of the People's Inquiry into Campus Free Speech on Palestine?

(41) What is your response to the Report's finding that "Australian universities have restricted the free speech and academic freedom of staff and students on the question of Palestine"?

(a) Specifically, do you accept or reject the finding?

(b) What specific steps have you taken to address the issues outlined in this finding?

(42) What is your response to the Report's finding that "Australian universities have targeted students and staff who express support for Palestine for surveillance and discipline;"?

(a) Specifically, do you accept or reject the finding?

- (b) What specific steps have you taken to address the issues outlined in this finding?
- (43) What is your response to the Report's finding that "Universities have used existing policies and devised new policies in an opaque way to target and censor students and staff expressing support for Palestine."?
- (a) Specifically, do you accept or reject the finding?
- (b) What specific steps have you taken to address the issues outlined in this finding?
- (44) Given the Inquiry found that there were multiple incidents of cancelled events on the Israel genocide, how many guest lectures, film screenings or other events have been cancelled or otherwise intervened upon by your university in:
- (a) 2023?
- (b) 2024?
- (c) 2025 to date?

Bissaloy Steel Affiliation

- (45) How do you respond to evidence given to the People's Inquiry's that "We are concerned that free speech and the right to democratic assembly have been curtailed at UOW. We have been silenced and asked not to protest against the university for complicity in its contractual obligations with Israeli weapons companies as well as Bissaloy Steel manufacturing."
- (46) On what date was the University's affiliation with Bissaloy Steel commenced?
- (a) Which students and staff were consulted before the decision to commence this affiliation was made?
- (47) Are you aware that Bissaloy Steel provides armour grade steel to the Israeli Military, who are committing the crime of genocide in Gaza?
- (a) How is a research partnership with this corporation morally justifiable?
- (48) Do you acknowledge the views of international genocide scholars and United Nations experts that Israel is committing the crime of genocide?
- (a) If so, how can you justify indirectly providing benefit to the Israeli military, given they are committing genocide?
- (b) If not, on what basis do you dispute the views of experts in international law?

University Complaints

- (49) How many complaints with regard to references to the Israel genocide have been received in:
- (a) 2023?
 - (b) 2024?
 - (c) 2025 to date?
- (50) Of complaints received with regard to references to the Israel genocide, how many resulted in disciplinary cation in:
- (a) 2023?
 - (b) 2024?
 - (c) 2025 to date?

University Enrolments

- (51) How many students enrolled at your University identify as:
- (a) Palestinian?
 - (b) Israeli?
 - (c) Lebanese?

Questions on behalf of the Opposition
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Questions to all University Vice-Chancellors

- (52) Does your university have, or are you planning to have, a similar plan (as undertaken by Sydney University) to “indigenise and decolonise’ your own University curriculum? And if so, what actions are being undertaken?
- (53) How many jobs have been cut from administrative staff over the last 12 months and 24 months respectively?
- (54) How many jobs have been cut from academic staff over the last 12 months and 24 months respectively?
- (55) How many courses have been cancelled at the beginning of the academic years, 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively?
- (56) How many courses have been cancelled mid academic year, 2023, 2024 and 2025?
- (a) What impact has this had on students, including financial, emotional and social?

- (57) How has the University measured or assessed the impact?
- (58) How has the University assisted students, addressing financial, emotional and social impact and needs?
- (59) Can you provide a list of courses at your university in 2025 that focus on Gender Studies, Race Studies, or critiques of Western colonisation, and what is their enrolment?
- (60) How do you justify the inclusion of courses perceived as 'woke' in terms of their economic and social value to NSW?
- (61) What evidence do you have that graduates of these courses secure employment in roles that contribute to NSW's economy?
- (62) Are there plans to review or adjust course offerings to prioritise disciplines with higher employment outcomes, given taxpayer funding?
- (63) Are there plans to review or adjust course offerings to meet identified skill shortages, given taxpayer funding?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Questions to the University of Wollongong

- (64) What skills matrix do you have in place for seeking members to your University Council/Senate/governing body?
- (65) What expertise (other than elected members of the University) does your Council have in higher education or research? Is that sufficient?
- (66) Did your University Council as a whole have a detailed process of considering the Accord and its strategic implications? (If yes, please supply the minutes)
- (67) Was the Chancellor chair of a reclassification panel for the Governance team? Did that process follow the University's policies and procedures for reclassification? Given that other university staff have had to re-apply for their own roles at lower levels, what was the justification for reclassifying members of the Governance team when their job and person descriptions had not changed?
 - (a) if this was indeed chaired by the Chancellor, was it good governance for the Chancellor to chair an operational committee?
- (68) How many of the Council's sub-committees have been chaired by the Chancellor?
 - (a) is this good governance?

- (69) How many appointment committees, promotion committees and reclassification committees have been chaired by the Chancellor?
- (70) Are there elected university members on all sub-committees of Council?
- (a) If not, has that always been the case, or only since the appointment of the current Chancellor?
- (b) Which committees do not have elected members on them?
- (71) Why was the appointment of the executive removed from being a responsibility of the Vice-Chancellor?
- (72) How much did the inauguration of the Chancellor cost?
- (a) Is this the first such inauguration?
- (73) What are the total costs incurred by the Chancellor since appointment? Travel; accommodation; entertainment costs; per diem; inauguration and other expenses?
- (74) What responsibility has Council taken for \$400 million public/private partnership costs incurred by the University in the relationship for student accommodation and the exposure to LendLease in the Health and Wellbeing Precinct?
- (75) What is the breakdown of expenditure of the \$2m that was requested from the Finance Committee as Chancellor? Who signs off on the expenditure of those monies? Can you give a breakdown of the expenditure?
- (76) Did your University Council have a formal vote to approve opening a campus in Saudi Arabia? (If yes, please supply the minutes)
- (77) In previous public statements that university has said that they have a formal compliance framework, how confident are you that this statement is true and that the university is meeting its compliance requirements for both higher-education (e.g. HESF) and other areas such as privacy, modern slavery, DFAT and anti-bribery/money laundering?
- (78) Did the university have formal risk assessments in place when making the strategic decision to proceed with the current transformation
- (79) Have you conducted formal risk assessments throughout the project's lifecycle?
- (80) Why is TEQSA so concerned about the appropriate management of UOW that they have sent extraordinary requests for information?

- (81) The UOW Council approved a new campus to be set up in Saudi Arabia before any course approval had gone through academic governance mechanisms such as faculty approval, quality assurance and Academic Senate. Are staff being pressured or rushed to approve courses in order to justify UOW Council and UOW Global Enterprise's pre-emptive deal with the government of Saudi Arabia?
- (a) Will UOW staff have the ability to opt out of work such as course approvals, quality assurance and other course management due to ethical concerns)?
- (82) How confident is the Vice Chancellor that the UOW Council are acting in line with the UOW Act 1989?
- (a) Have there been concerns raised to you or other PID officers at UOW about the actions of UOW Council members?
- (83) Does the UOW Council have a discretionary fund?
- (a) If yes, what is the total value of this fund, what is its remit in terms of appropriate expenses, and what are the control mechanisms to ensure financial probity?
- (84) Would you be supportive of the NSW Parliament taking a closer look at whether the current members of Council are meeting their obligations under the UOW Act particularly around clause 16 (1Be) around overseeing risk management and clause 16 (1Bh) to ensure policy compliance meets community expectations, particularly around its management of conflicts of interest?
- (85) What mechanisms has the Vice Chancellor put in place to ensure that the discrepancies between management perceptions of work, and the work that is actually done by staff, will not lead to severe disruption to the service provisions (teaching and research) of the institution?
- (a) Why do you think staff survey responses about perceptions of senior management have been low for year after year, and getting worse?
- (86) What were the total costs of recruiting the current Vice-Chancellor including the recruitment agency and all travel, accommodation and per diem and other costs for the selection panel and candidates?
- (87) What were the total costs for the Interim Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Dewar?
- (88) When did discussion commence with KordaMentha for a governance review at the University of Wollongong?

- (89) When did discussions first commence with Professor John Dewar for either the governance review or for his role as Interim Vice-Chancellor?
- (90) What were the total costs for engaging KordaMentha or any of its staff?
- (91) What were the total costs of redundancies Jan 01, 2024 to July 31, 2025?
- (92) What were the total hiring costs of the University Jan 01, 2024 to July 31, 2025?
- (93) How many executive and senior leaders have left the University of Wollongong since the appointment of the current Chancellor?
- (a) How many of these people were asked or directed to leave?
- (94) Can you confirm that there has been a turnover in staff or deletion of these roles in the period of time since the Chancellor was appointed:
- (a) Vice-Chancellor,
- (b) Vice-President for Operations / Chief Operating Officer,
- (c) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Sustainable Futures),
- (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic),
- (e) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Quality and Assurance),
- (f) Pro-Vice Chancellor (International),
- (g) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Industry),
- (h) Pro Vice Chancellor (University Impact),
- (i) General Counsel,
- (j) Head of Integrity, Head of People and Culture. (PVC Indigenous Strategy, PVC Health)
- (95) All of the measures of university performance were improving with that team. Why were they asked to leave?
- (96) Why was the previous Vice-Chancellor asked to stand down?
- (97) Please provide an individual breakdown of the full-time student load cost for:
- (a) Master of National Security Policy
- (b) Master of Applied Cybernetics
- (c) Master of Public Policy

- (d) Master of Philosophy
- (e) Bachelor of Music
- (f) Bachelor of International Relations
- (g) Master of Climate Change
- (h) Bachelor of Science
- (i) Bachelor of Psychology
- (j) Doctor of Medicine and Surgery
- (k) Bachelor of Economics
- (l) Master of Statistics

Questions from Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC
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ALL UNIVERSITY WITNESSES APPEARING DURING THE VICE CHANCELLOR SESSION

- (98) Can you confirm how the Council makes decisions with respect to the remuneration of the VC and the Provost?
 - (a) How is the make-up of the Remuneration Committee determined?
 - (b) What information is provided to the broader Council prior to them approving the VC and Provost's remuneration?
 - (c) How much information about the decision making process is publicly available?
- (99) How is the remuneration for staff in the Chancellery determined?
- (100) Can you please provide clarity on the matters below relating to your University's Council/Senate/Board of Trustees?
 - (a) Is the agenda of your University's Council/Senate/Board of Trustees meetings publicly available?
 - (b) Are minutes taken at your University's Council/Senate/Board of Trustees meetings, and if yes who has access to those minutes, are they made publicly available?
 - (c) If minutes are not made publicly available what is made publicly available as a record of the meeting? What format is it available in?
 - i. Who prepares the publicly available record of the meeting?

- ii. What is the cost associated with preparing the publicly available record of the meeting?
 - iii. Who approves the final public record of the meeting for release?
- (d) How long after the meeting is the publicly available record released? Is this standardised? How are interested parties able to keep track of when reports are available?
- (e) What is the annual budgeted expenditure for the operation of your University's Council/Senate/Board of Trustees?
 - i. Are Council members provided any payments, allowances, or reimbursements for their membership on the Council, their attendance at Council meetings or their participation in Council activities?