

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

Supplementary questions: UNSW Sydney

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

Hearing: Friday 29 August 2025

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

University Investments

(1) What is the total sum of university investments, both direct and indirect, in fossil fuels?

UNSW does not hold any direct investments in any fossil fuel companies. UNSW may have indirect exposure through its holdings in managed investment funds.

In accordance with UNSW 's publicly available Responsible Investment Policy (2021) UNSW expects its funds managers to exert influence over and encourage the organisations they invest in to operate ethically, responsibly and in a manner that contributes to a sustainable and better world.

(2) Can you please provide a complete list of partnerships with fossil fuel companies or lobby groups over the last 5 years?

UNSW upholds academic freedom of our staff and is committed to conducting and managing research partnerships responsibly and with integrity. UNSW complies with legislation and industry regulations, codes, principles and guides.

UNSW values partnerships across industry to support research collaboration to advance knowledge in specialised fields.

Over the last 5 years, UNSW has had contracts with:

- Chevron Corporation
- ExxonMobil
- Lundin Energy
- Santos
- Shell
- TotalEnergies
- Woodside Energy

(3) What is the total sum of university investments, both direct and indirect, in Israeli corporations?

UNSW does not hold any direct investments in any Israeli companies. UNSW may have indirect exposure through its holdings in managed investment funds.

(4) Can you please provide a complete list of partnerships with Israeli corporations over the last 5 years?

UNSW has previously held contracts with HP Scitex in the medicine and health area.

(5) What is the total sum of university investments, both direct and indirect, in weapons corporations?

UNSW does not hold any direct investments in any defence companies. UNSW may have indirect exposure through its holdings in managed investment funds.

(6) Can you please provide a complete list of partnerships with weapons corporations or lobby groups over the last 5 years?

UNSW has held contracts with the following companies, which undertake a wide range of activities, including for example, through our Commonwealth funded Defence Trailblazer program.

- Airbus Group
- Boeing
- IBM
- Lockheed Martin
- Northrop Grumman
- Quickstep
- SAAB
- Thales

(7) What is the total sum of university investments, both direct and indirect, in gambling companies?

(a) How much does the university have directly or indirectly invested in gambling companies or poker machine manufacturers?

UNSW does not hold any direct investments in any gambling companies. UNSW may have indirect exposure through its holdings in managed investment funds.

(8) Can you please provide a complete list of partnerships with the gambling industry over the last 5 years?

There were none.

(9) What existing partnerships does the University have with Israeli Academic Institutions?

UNSW upholds academic freedom of our staff and is committed to conducting and managing research partnerships responsibly and with integrity. UNSW complies with legislation and industry regulations, codes, principles and guides.

UNSW has partnerships with Hadassah Academic College, Jerusalem and Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) in areas such as paediatrics and ocean research.

(10) 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?

UNSW does not hold any direct investments in any of the above companies. UNSW may have indirect exposure through its holdings in managed investment funds.

(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?

In FY2025, UNSW received \$1,812,000 in research income from some of these companies.

(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?

Yes.

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

In FY2025, UNSW has paid these companies a total \$2,396,853, for expenses such as the purchase of research materials, cyber security training for staff, and lift maintenance expenses.

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

No.

(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?

UNSW does not hold any direct investments in any of the above companies.

(11) 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?

UNSW does not hold any direct investments in any of the above companies. UNSW may have indirect exposure through its holdings in managed investment funds.

(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?**

In FY2025, UNSW received \$300,000 in research income from some of these companies.

- (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?**

Yes.

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

In FY2025, UNSW has paid a total \$1,406,829 for the supply of gas and electricity to some of the companies listed.

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

No.

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

The University has already committed to this. The University's Responsible Investment Framework (2021) states that UNSW will not invest, directly or indirectly, in the public equities and corporate bonds of companies whose primary business is the ownership and exploitation of fossil fuel reserves by 2025.

Jillian Segal Recommendations

- (12) 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?**

UNSW is committed to providing our students and staff with a positive, safe and rewarding experience at our university, and the best possible environment in which to learn, study and work.

The Special Envoy was appointed by Government to produce her report, and the Government has not yet responded to its recommendations.

- (13) 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?**

Questions about statements made by the Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism in Australia are better directed to Ms Segal.

(14) 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?

The appointment and assessment of the suitability of government appointees is a matter for government.

(15) 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?

The appointment and assessment of the suitability of government appointees is a matter for government.

(16) Are you aware that your university’s definition has been described as “closely aligned” with the IHRA definition?

Yes.

(17) 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.”?

Yes.

(18) 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?

No. The university sector has sought to adopt a common definition of antisemitism, approved by Universities Australia (UA). This UA definition is a good faith attempt by the university sector to reconcile a working definition of antisemitism with our legal obligation under the French Model Code.

UNSW’s Anti-racism and Anti-religious Vilification Policy does not include a single source definition of antisemitism. The policy provides supporting and reference information that includes links to:

1. the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism;
2. the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism; and
3. the UA Working Definition of Antisemitism (“Statement on Racism”).

(19) How many students have faced misconduct proceedings resulting from protest activity in:

(a) 2024?

Nil.

(b) 2025?

Nil.

Misconduct

(20) How many warnings have been issued to students resulting from protest activity in:

(a) 2024?

There was one warning issued.

(b) 2025?

Nil.

(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?

No.

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?

In relation to questions 22 to 28, there have been no events conducted with StandWithUsAustralia or Israel-IS at UNSW.

Protest

(29) How many protests have not been authorised by your University's protest policy in:

(a) 2020?

(b) 2021?

(c) 2022?

(d) 2023?

(e) 2024?

(f) 2025?

There has been 1 protest that was not authorised in 2025. Our records do not indicate any protests were not authorised prior to this.

Surveillance

(30) 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?

UNSW monitors social media to ensure campus safety in line with our legal obligations.

We would not characterise this monitoring as surveillance.

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

UNSW collects and uses information related to our students in accordance with the Student Privacy Statement available on our website at <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/privacy>

(32) 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?

In February 2024, the Terms and Conditions for the new Wifi network were updated following a change in providers. This is the latest version available on our website at <https://www.unsw.edu.au/get-online>

(33) 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?

There is no building with this name at UNSW.

People's Inquiry into Campus Free Speech on Palestine

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

(35) 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?

(36) 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?

(37) 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?

In response to questions 34 to 37, the University is aware of the report, however, has not considered the report in detail.

(38) 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?

None.

(39) Do you acknowledge the views of international genocide scholars and United Nations experts that Israel is committing the crime of genocide?

(a) If not, on what basis do you dispute the views of experts in international law?

It is not the role of the University to endorse or repudiate such views.

UNSW upholds the fundamental principles of academic freedom and freedom of expression. These principles are essential to the University's mission and enable our students, staff, and researchers to engage in open, rigorous, and respectful debate, including on complex and contested global issues.

University Complaints

(40) How many complaints with regard to references to the Israel genocide have been received in:

(a) 2023?

(b) 2024?

(c) 2025 to date?

The number of complaints received referencing both 'Israel' and 'genocide' are as follows:

2023 = 3

2024 = 16

2025 = 6

(41) Of complaints received with regard to references to the Israel genocide, how many resulted in disciplinary action in:

(a) 2023?

(b) 2024?

(c) 2025 to date?

Nil.

University Enrolments

(42) How many students enrolled at your University identify as:

(a) Palestinian?

(b) Israeli?

(c) Lebanese?

While UNSW invites students to indicate their country of birth at registration, we do not record national identities.

Questions on behalf of the Opposition
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(43) 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?

We do not have plans to ‘indigenise and decolonise’ the university curriculum.

(44) How many jobs have been cut from administrative staff over the last 12 months and 24 months respectively?

There have been no job cuts over the last 12 and 24 months respectively.

(45) How many jobs have been cut from academic staff over the last 12 months and 24 months respectively?

There have been no job cuts over the last 12 and 24 months respectively.

(46) How many courses have been cancelled at the beginning of the academic years, 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively?

UNSW typically reviews and approves proposals to suspend or disestablish (“cancel”) programs a year in advance of any such suspension or disestablishment having effect.

Faculties are well aware that decisions about disestablishing (moving to teach out) or suspending (temporary closure of applications for a year) must be made well in advance with careful consideration of transitional arrangements for existing students and pipeline applicants.

UNSW carefully monitors program quality and student demand and makes adjustments accordingly. In a considerable number of cases, any disestablished programs are replaced by similar programs which better address the needs of students and employers.

**(47) 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?**

Due to our current trimester calendar, there is no clear ‘mid-year’ point at UNSW. However, in 2023, there were three courses where the decision to disestablish the program was approved in the same year that the disestablishment took effect (i.e. programs were closed to applicants immediately and entered into the teach out period). There were three in 2024 and five in 2025.

Wherever possible, UNSW reviews and approves proposals to suspend or disestablish (“cancel”) programs in the calendar year ahead of the year the program is either suspended or disestablished.

(48) How has the University measured or assessed the impact?

The University’s governance processes require careful consideration of potential impacts on students and applicants. Any changes are planned with sufficiently long implementation timeframes and typically include structured teach-out periods for existing programs and rules, ensuring continuity and minimising disruption.

(49) How has the University assisted students, addressing financial, emotional and social impact and needs?

The University carefully considers the impact of suspending or closing a program on current students, applicants, and offer holders. Impacted students are identified and supported with tailored study plans to help them finish on time. Where new programs are introduced, students are usually given the choice to transfer or remain in their existing program. These processes prioritise the student experience while ensuring compliance requirements are met.

Students can access UNSW Student Advisors for personalised support with wellbeing, study habits, appeals, and financial hardship. Advisors connect students with appropriate services, including Psychology & Wellness, 24/7 Mental Health Support and the UNSW Health Service. Dedicated support is also available for Indigenous, international, LGBTQIA+ students, and students with disabilities. Financial assistance includes scholarships, grants, interest-free loans, and access to the Arc-run Food Hub, which provides free food and essentials to ease cost-of-living pressures.

(50) 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?

All course information is publicly available at <https://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/search>

(51) How do you justify the inclusion of courses perceived as 'woke' in terms of their economic and social value to NSW?

UNSW does not characterise its courses in such terms. Our programs are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to their careers and goals, the economy, and society.

(52) What evidence do you have that graduates of these courses secure employment in roles that contribute to NSW's economy?

UNSW graduates have very high employability, ranking number 1 in Australia for employment outcomes according to the 2026 QS World University Rankings. UNSW has been named the AFR's Most Employable University for six consecutive years (2020-2025) and our graduates have the highest median graduate salaries among the Group of Eight universities.

(53) Are there plans to review or adjust course offerings to prioritise disciplines with higher employment outcomes, given taxpayer funding?

UNSW faculties regularly review course (subject) and program (degree) offerings to ensure alignment with industry standards, pedagogical excellence, and societal needs. This includes responding to feedback from students, employers, and government priorities. As part of UNSW's Academic Offerings Monitoring and Review Procedure, programs are assessed for relevance, quality, and viability, taking into account employment outcomes, skill shortages, and emerging market demands. These reviews help ensure that taxpayer-funded education delivers strong career pathways and supports Australia's evolving workforce needs.

(54) Are there plans to review or adjust course offerings to meet identified skill shortages, given taxpayer funding?

See above.

Questions from Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC
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(55) 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?

Membership of the UNSW Remuneration and People Committee as specified by the Committee's Terms of Reference, is available on the UNSW website, <https://www.unsw.edu.au/governance/council-committees/committees>

(b) What information is provided to the broader Council prior to them approving the VC and Provost's remuneration?

The minutes and relevant documentation of each meeting of the UNSW Remuneration and People Committee are referred to Council.

(c) How much information about the decision-making process is publicly available?

UNSW Council meeting agendas and minutes for the current year are displayed on the UNSW website.

(56) How is the remuneration for staff in the Chancellery determined?

Remuneration for University Senior Management Positions (including Provost, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Vice-Presidents, Deans and President of the Academic Board) are determined by the UNSW Remuneration and People Committee.

(57) 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?

Yes.

(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?

Yes. UNSW Council meeting agendas and minutes for the current year are displayed on the UNSW website.

(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?

N/A

(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?

Our objective is to upload the agenda shortly after the meeting and the minutes once they have been confirmed at the next Council meeting.

Specific outcomes on submissions are notified to contributors within 7 days of the meeting. Several reports are publicly disseminated following consideration by Council, including the UNSW Sustainability Report, UNSW Modern Slavery Report, annual Gendered Violence Prevention and Response Report, annual Conduct and Integrity reports, and the UNSW Annual Report tabled in NSW Parliament.

(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?

The typical annual expenditure budget for Council is around \$25,000 per annum.

Council members are not remunerated for their participation in Council activities. Council members are entitled to claim reimbursement of expenses of items such as travel, telephone and childcare incurred in connection with Council business. Members rarely claim expenses.