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## La Trobe University Council Report of Outcome – 11 May 2026

La Trobe's founding mission was, and remains, to serve the community of Victoria for the purposes of higher education, for the education, economic, social and cultural benefit of Victorians and for wider Australian and international communities.

La Trobe University Council is the formally constituted governing body of the University that oversees and is accountable for all of the University's operations, including that the institution meets, and continues to meet, the requirements of the Higher Education Standards Framework. [La Trobe University Act 2009](#).

The Council met for its second meeting of 2026 on Monday 11 May 2026 in the Chancellery Meeting Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, David Myers Building, Bundoora Campus.

Prior to the formal Council meeting, members undertook a tour of the newly opened Clinical Teaching Building and the Agro Bio Building.

This was followed by a Research and Innovation Showcase, where members were provided with an overview of La Trobe's health research impact by leading La Trobe academics.

Council then held an informal lunch with students.

### **University Ombudsman's Annual Report 2025**

The University Ombudsman attended the meeting to present his Annual Report, reporting that the number of cases handled by his office was almost identical to the previous year, with a significant drop in applications for special consideration.

Council were informed that the University engages constructively with the National Student Ombudsman and the relationship has been extremely collaborative. The Ombudsman reported that there was a high degree of cooperation from all staff involved in cases.

### **Learning and Teaching in the Age of AI: Risks, Assurance and Strategic Response**

The Council considered a report addressing "Learning and Teaching in the Age of AI: Risks, Assurance and Strategic Response" which expanded on a verbal presentation provided to Council at its last meeting.

The report covered the current state of AI in higher education and the key risks to learning and teaching, assurance of learning and its role in risk mitigation, and short term and longer-term responses by the sector and the University. It was noted that a further paper outlining forward looking transformations will be provided for the June meeting.

### **Update on Government Higher Education Policy**

The Executive Director, Innovative Research Universities attended the meeting to provide an update on government higher education policy, particularly in relation to managed growth and needs-based funding, and the implications for universities such as La Trobe and other comparable IRU institutions.

### **Growth and Financial sustainability presentation & strategic discussion**

Council and senior executive staff had a detailed discussion regarding the current financial challenges facing La Trobe and the sector, generally driven largely by a downturn in the international

student market caused by visa policy changes and ongoing geopolitical instability, including the war in the Middle East. The need for a continued focus on productivity, profitability, AI transformation and adapting to a “new normal” in higher education was noted.

### **People & Culture Projects**

Members discussed the great work being undertaken in relation to the Leadership Redefined program and the workforce planning strategy.

### **Membership of Council**

Members noted that the election processes for the Postgraduate student and the professional staff member on Council are currently underway, with both new members scheduled to begin their term on Council prior to the next meeting.

Following a comprehensive search approach, informed by the Council's skills matrix and diversity matrix (as per the state government guidelines) and strategic priorities Council approved the recommendation that [Susan Elliott](#) be appointed to the Council.

### **Other Matters**

Council also considered:

- Regular Occupational Health & Safety Report
- Regular update on the enforceable Undertaking
- National Redress Scheme
- Summary of the French Model Code
- New sub committee for cyber related critical incidents
- Reports from all the Council sub committee.

### **Disclaimer**

This Report is intended to communicate key outcomes from the Council meeting, not to be official record of the meeting. It does not cover all matters discussed or the full detail of decisions or discussions.

### **Further information**

Further information regarding the La Trobe University Council can be found here:  
<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/council>.