

Question on Notice (with regards to whether VU will consider live streaming Council meetings)

As indicated during the hearing, the Victoria University is open, in principle and in practice, to initiatives that support transparency and engagement in governance.

The University has already taken steps to improve transparency by sharing Council deliberations and meeting outcomes with our staff and students. This provides ready access to decisions made that impact our VU community.

Council is also committed to fostering accessibility and public confidence in its deliberations at all levels.

However, it is important to recognise, that University Councils operate within a legislative and governance framework that places significant emphasis on fiduciary duties, institutional autonomy, and stewardship of complex academic, commercial and research activities. As a result, Council meetings regularly address matters that are confidential in nature, including commercial negotiations; legal issues; personnel matters; Foreign Interference issues; and matters governed by privacy legislation. These are not necessarily or broadly directly comparable to the functions of local government deliberations.

Accordingly, any move toward live-streaming would need to carefully balance the objectives of transparency and engagement with these very real obligations, including the continued need for *in camera* discussion where appropriate.

The University will consider this issue in consultation with the Chancellor and Council, including examining sector practices and any implications for governance effectiveness. The University also acknowledges that this is a matter on which the State Government could provide direction in the future and we would welcome any such guidance.