

## **Announcement from the Chancellor, Dr Richard Torbay MP**

**22 December 2010**

Dear Colleagues,

At the last meeting of the University of New England Council, I resolved along with my fellow Council members to put out an email to the University community after every Council meeting informing you of significant decisions. I'm pleased to be able to do so. Keeping the broader community informed of what we are doing is a valuable exercise in communications, and also intranparency and accountability.

This constitutes the first of what will be my regular reports to the University community. It will consist of significant issues and items discussed at the Council meeting, and will include matters that Council members request. Any members of the University community who want to examine the issues further can refer to the open business papers of Council at <http://www.une.edu.au/governance/council/councilopenpapers/>

At its meeting on 13th December, Council discussed and resolved the following issues:

- Congratulations were extended to Mr Scott Williams as the re-elected Chair of the Finance Committee, Dr James Harris as the re-elected Chair of Audit and Risk Committee and the newly elected Chair of the Infrastructure Committee Ms Gae Raby. I'm very pleased that these highly capable members of our Council are making this contribution.
- Council received a report on the annual review of the UNE governance framework. Members of the University community who refer to the report will see the significant steps that have been taken following the Council's comprehensive review of the governance framework in 2009.
- Council approved a new Internal Audit Charter and a Charter for the Audit and Risk Committee. It's very important that our Committees operate in a best practice framework.
- Council members received a proposal for an interim Standing Committee of Convocation. The purpose of this proposal is to facilitate connections between Council and Convocation, and to enliven the University's alumni community, many of whom I know are deeply committed to the future of this institution.
- Council agreed to form an interim Standing Committee of Convocation consisting of the two graduate members of Council, the Vice-Chancellor or nominee, and four members of Convocation nominated by UNE Alumni Associations. The purpose of this interim Committee is to make recommendations to Council within twelve months about the composition and function of a permanent Standing Committee of Convocation. Once there are further details about the terms of reference and the composition of this Committee, I will inform the University community.
- The Council also approved the University's 2011 Budget. This has been the outcome of some hard work across the University.

I was also able to thank the Vice Chancellor and his team for their hard work, and Council members for their counsel and their part in working for this University during 2010. I would like to thank members of the University community on behalf of Council for your continuing hard work in making this a great and a unique University. I extend my warm season's greetings and best wishes for the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

*Hon Dr Richard Torbay MP*  
*Chancellor*