

HOTS E - Response to Meg Webb

I'd like to acknowledge the Member for Nelson as the Chair for the former *Select Committee Inquiry into the Provisions of the University of Tasmania Act 1992*, and the considerable work done by the Committee.

The Report represents a significant piece of parliamentary work and raised importance issues regarding the governance, accountability and future legislative framework of the University of Tasmania.

Since the final report was tabled in December 2024, there has been substantial reform activity across Australia's higher education sector. Many of the matters examined by the Committee, including governance, accountability, representation and transparency, have also been the subject of national reviews, new governance principles and updated regulatory requirements. At the same time, reforms arising from the Australian Universities Accord continue to be implemented by the Australian Government and national regulatory bodies.

As I have previously indicated, the Government has considered it prudent to take account of these developments before settling its position on the Committee's recommendations.

This approach reflects the importance of ensuring that any future consideration of the University of Tasmania Act 1992 is informed by contemporary national standards and remains aligned with the broader reform direction for Australia's higher education sector.

With the key elements of this national reform agenda becoming clearer, I have instructed the Department for Education, Children and Young People to commence preparation of a formal Tasmanian Government response to the Committee's Final Report.

It will include:

- a Tasmanian Government response to the 19 recommendations within the Final Report and respond to the overarching recommendation regarding a review of the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*.
- an overview of how the Final Report, recommendations and findings align with contemporary national requirements and expectations, and
- an indicative timeline for commencement of work, noting that the Government's current legislative program will continue to be prioritised to deliver the Commission of Inquiry reforms.

It is my expectation that the Government's response will be completed and made public before parliament rises at the end of this year.