

University of Newcastle Act 1989 No 68

[1989-68]



New South Wales

Status Information

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Provisions in force

The provisions displayed in this version of the legislation have all commenced.

Notes—

- **See also**
[Statute Law \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Bill 2002](#)

Authorisation

This version of the legislation is compiled and maintained in a database of legislation by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and published on the NSW legislation website, and is certified as the form of that legislation that is correct under section 45C of the [Interpretation Act 1987](#).

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University of Newcastle Act 1989 No 68



New South Wales

An Act with respect to the constitution and functions of the University of Newcastle; to repeal the [University of Newcastle Act 1964](#); and for other purposes.

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Name of Act

This Act may be cited as the [University of Newcastle Act 1989](#).

2 Commencement

This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

3 Definitions

(1) In this Act:

commercial functions of the University means the commercial functions described in section 6 (3) (a).

Council means the Council of the University.

University means the University of Newcastle established by this Act.

(2) In this Act, a reference to a graduate of the University is a reference to a person who is the recipient of a degree or diploma, or of such other award or certificate as may be prescribed by the by-laws, conferred or awarded:

(a) by the University,

(b) by or on behalf of any former institution that has, pursuant to this Act or to the [Higher Education \(Amalgamation\) Act 1989](#) or otherwise, become a part of the University, or

(c) by any predecessor of any such institution.

(3) In this Act:

(a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty, and

- (b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a duty, a reference to the performance of the duty.

Part 2 Constitution and functions of the University

4 Establishment of University

A University, consisting of:

- (a) a Council,
- (b) Convocation,
- (c) the professors and full-time members of the academic staff of the University and such other members or classes of members of the staff of the University as the by-laws may prescribe, and
- (d) the graduates and students of the University,

is established by this Act.

5 Incorporation of University

The University is a body corporate under the name of the University of Newcastle.

6 Object and functions of University

- (1) The object of the University is the promotion, within the limits of the University's resources, of scholarship, research, free inquiry, the interaction of research and teaching, and academic excellence.
- (2) The University has the following principal functions for the promotion of its object:
 - (a) the provision of facilities for education and research of university standard, having particular regard to the needs of the Hunter region, the Central Coast and surrounding areas,
 - (b) the encouragement of the dissemination, advancement, development and application of knowledge informed by free inquiry,
 - (c) the provision of courses of study or instruction across a range of fields, and the carrying out of research, to meet the needs of the community,
 - (d) the participation in public discourse,
 - (e) the conferring of degrees, including those of Bachelor, Master and Doctor, and the awarding of diplomas, certificates and other awards,
 - (f) the provision of teaching and learning that engage with advanced knowledge and inquiry,

- (g) the development of governance, procedural rules, admission policies, financial arrangements and quality assurance processes that are underpinned by the values and goals referred to in the functions set out in this subsection, and that are sufficient to ensure the integrity of the University's academic programs.

(3) The University has other functions as follows:

- (a) the University may exercise commercial functions comprising the commercial exploitation or development, for the University's benefit, of any facility, resource or property of the University or in which the University has a right or interest (including, for example, study, research, knowledge and intellectual property and the practical application of study, research, knowledge and intellectual property), whether alone or with others,
- (b) the University may develop and provide cultural, sporting, professional, technical and vocational services to the community,
- (c) the University has such general and ancillary functions as may be necessary or convenient for enabling or assisting the University to promote the object and interests of the University, or as may complement or be incidental to the promotion of the object and interests of the University,
- (d) the University has such other functions as are conferred or imposed on it by or under this or any other Act.

(4) The functions of the University may be exercised within or outside the State, including outside Australia.

7 Facilities for students, staff and others

The University may, for the purposes of or in connection with the exercise of its functions, provide such facilities for its students and staff and other members of the university community as the University considers desirable.

Part 3 The Council, authorities and officers of the University

8 The Council

- (1) There shall be a Council of the University.
- (2) The Council is the governing authority of the University and has the functions conferred or imposed on it by or under this Act.

9 Constitution of Council

- (1) The Council shall consist of:
 - (a) parliamentary members,

- (b) official members,
- (c) appointed members, and
- (d) elected members.

(2) The parliamentary members comprise:

- (a) one Member of the Legislative Council elected by that Council:
 - (i) as soon as practicable after the commencement of this section and thereafter as soon as practicable after each periodic Council election within the meaning of section 3 of the *Constitution Act 1902*, or
 - (ii) if there is a casual vacancy in the office of that member of the Council, as soon as practicable after that office becomes vacant, and
- (b) one Member of the Legislative Assembly elected by that Assembly:
 - (i) as soon as practicable after the commencement of this section and thereafter as soon as practicable after each general election of Members of the Legislative Assembly, or
 - (ii) if there is a casual vacancy in the office of that member of the Council, as soon as practicable after that office becomes vacant.

(3) The official members comprise:

- (a) the Chancellor (if the Chancellor is not otherwise a member of the Council),
- (b) the Vice-Chancellor, and
- (c) the person for the time being holding the office of:
 - (i) presiding member of the Academic Senate (if that person is not the Vice-Chancellor), or
 - (ii) deputy presiding member of the Academic Senate (if the presiding member is the Vice-Chancellor).

(4) The appointed members comprise 4 persons appointed by the Minister from, as far as practicable, the following categories:

- (a) persons experienced in the field of education or the arts,
- (b) persons experienced in technology, industry, commerce or industrial relations,
- (c) persons who are practising, or have practised, a profession.

(5) The elected members comprise the following:

(a) 2 persons:

- (i) who are members of the academic staff of the University,
- (ii) who have such qualifications as may be prescribed by the by-laws, and
- (iii) who are elected by members of the academic staff of the University in the manner prescribed by the by-laws,

(b) one person:

- (i) who is a member of the non-academic staff of the University,
- (ii) who has such qualifications as may be prescribed by the by-laws, and
- (iii) who is elected by members of the non-academic staff of the University in the manner prescribed by the by-laws,

(c) one person:

- (i) who is an undergraduate student of the University but who is not a member of the academic or non-academic staff of the University,
- (ii) who has such qualifications as may be prescribed by the by-laws, and
- (iii) who is elected by the undergraduate students of the University in the manner prescribed by the by-laws,

(c1) one person:

- (i) who is a postgraduate student of the University but who is not a member of the academic or non-academic staff of the University, and
- (ii) who has such qualifications as may be prescribed by the by-laws, and
- (iii) who is elected by the postgraduate students of the University in the manner prescribed by the by-laws,

(d) 4 persons:

- (i) who are members of Convocation (but who are not members of the academic or non-academic staff of the University having the qualifications referred to in paragraph (a) (ii) or (b) (ii) or students of the University having the qualifications referred to in paragraph (c) (ii) or (c1) (ii)),
- (ii) who have such qualifications as may be prescribed by the by-laws, and
- (iii) who are elected by members of Convocation in the manner prescribed by the by-laws.

(6) The Council may appoint any other person to be a member of the Council and the

person, on being appointed, shall be taken to be an appointed member of the Council in addition to the members appointed under subsection (4).

- (7) No more than one person may hold office at any one time as an appointed member under subsection (6).
- (8) Schedule 1 has effect in relation to the members and procedure of the Council.

10 Chancellor

- (1) The Council shall:
 - (a) at its first meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter, and
 - (b) whenever a vacancy in the office of Chancellor occurs,elect a person (whether or not a member of the Council) to be Chancellor of the University.
- (2) The Chancellor, unless he or she sooner resigns as Chancellor or ceases to be a member of the Council, holds office for such period (not exceeding 4 years), and on such conditions, as may be prescribed by the by-laws.
- (3) The Chancellor has the functions conferred or imposed on the Chancellor by or under this or any other Act.

11 Deputy Chancellor

- (1) The Council shall:
 - (a) at its first meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter, and
 - (b) whenever a vacancy in the office of Deputy Chancellor occurs,elect one of its members to be Deputy Chancellor of the University.
- (2) The Deputy Chancellor, unless he or she sooner resigns as Deputy Chancellor or ceases to be a member of the Council, holds office for 2 years from the date of election and on such conditions as may be prescribed by the by-laws.
- (3) In the absence of the Chancellor, or during a vacancy in the office of Chancellor or during the inability of the Chancellor to act, the Deputy Chancellor has all the functions of the Chancellor.

12 Vice-Chancellor

- (1) The Council shall, whenever a vacancy in the office of Vice-Chancellor occurs, appoint a person (whether a member of the Council or not) to be Vice-Chancellor of the University.

- (2) The Vice-Chancellor holds office for such period, and on such conditions, as the Council determines.
- (3) The Vice-Chancellor is the principal executive officer of the University and has such functions as are conferred or imposed on the Vice-Chancellor by or under this or any other Act.

13 Visitor

- (1) The Governor is the Visitor of the University but has ceremonial functions only.
- (2) Accordingly, the Visitor has no functions or jurisdiction with respect to the resolution of disputes or any other matter concerning the affairs of the University (other than a matter involving the exercise of ceremonial functions only).

14 Convocation

- (1) Convocation shall consist of:
 - (a) the members and past members of the Council,
 - (b) the graduates of the University,
 - (c) the professors and full-time members of the academic staff of the University and such other members or classes of members of the staff of the University as the by-laws may prescribe, and
 - (d) such graduates of other universities, or other persons, as are, in accordance with the by-laws, admitted as members of Convocation.
- (2) The first meeting of Convocation shall be convened by the Vice-Chancellor.
- (3) Subject to the by-laws, meetings of Convocation shall be convened and the business at the meetings shall be as determined by Convocation.
- (4) A quorum at any meeting of Convocation shall be such number of members as may be prescribed by the by-laws.
- (5) Convocation has such functions as may be prescribed by the by-laws.
- (6) The Council may establish a Standing Committee and such other committees of Convocation as it considers necessary.

15 Academic Senate

- (1) There shall be an Academic Senate of the University, consisting of:
 - (a) the Vice-Chancellor, and
 - (b) such other persons as the Council may, in accordance with the by-laws,

determine.

- (2) Subject to subsection (1), the constitution and functions of the Academic Senate shall be as prescribed by the by-laws.

Part 4 Functions of Council

Division 1 General

16 Functions of Council

(1A) The Council:

- (a) acts for and on behalf of the University in the exercise of the University's functions, and
- (b) has the control and management of the affairs and concerns of the University, and
- (c) may act in all matters concerning the University in such manner as appears to the Council to be best calculated to promote the object and interests of the University.

(1) Without limiting the functions of the Council under subsection (1A), the Council may, for and on behalf of the University in the exercise of the University's functions:

- (a) provide such courses, and confer such degrees and award such diplomas and other certificates, as it thinks fit,
- (b) appoint and terminate the appointment of academic and other staff of the University,
- (c) (Repealed)
- (d) borrow money within such limits, to such extent and on such conditions as to security or otherwise as the Governor on the recommendation of the Treasurer may approve,
- (e) invest any funds belonging to or vested in the University,
- (f) promote, establish or participate in (whether by means of debt, equity, contribution of assets or by other means) partnerships, trusts, companies and other incorporated bodies, or joint ventures (whether or not incorporated),
- (g) (Repealed)
- (h) establish and maintain branches and colleges of the University, within the University and elsewhere,
- (i) make loans and grants to students, and
- (j) impose fees, charges and fines.

(2) The functions of the Council under this section shall be exercised subject to the by-laws.

(3) Schedule 2 has effect in relation to the investment of funds by the Council.

16A Controlled entities

(1) The Council must ensure that a controlled entity does not exercise any function or engage in any activity that the University is not authorised by or under this Act to exercise or engage in, except to the extent that the Council is permitted to do so by the Minister under this section.

(2) The Minister may, by order in writing, permit the Council to authorise a controlled entity to exercise a function or engage in an activity of the kind referred to in subsection (1). Permission may be given in respect of a specified function or activity or functions or activities of a specified class.

(3) The Governor may make regulations providing that subsection (1) does not apply to functions or activities of a specified class.

(4) This section does not itself confer power on a controlled entity to engage in any activity.

(5) This section does not affect any obligations imposed on a controlled entity by or under any Act or law, other than an obligation imposed on the controlled entity by the Council at its discretion.

(6) In this section:

controlled entity means a person, group of persons or body of which the University or Council has control within the meaning of a standard referred to in section 39 (1A) or 45A (1A) of the [Public Finance and Audit Act 1983](#).

17 Delegation by Council

The Council may, in relation to any matter or class of matters, or in relation to any activity or function of the University, by resolution, delegate all or any of its functions (except this power of delegation) to any member or committee of the Council or to any authority or officer of the University or to any other person or body prescribed by the by-laws.

17A Operation of certain Acts

Nothing in this Act limits or otherwise affects the operation of the [Ombudsman Act 1974](#), the [Public Finance and Audit Act 1983](#) or the [Annual Reports \(Statutory Bodies\) Act 1984](#) to or in respect of the University or the Council.

17B Recommendations of Ombudsman or Auditor-General

The Council must include in each annual report of the Council as part of the report of its

operations a report as to any action taken by the Council during the period to which the report relates to implement any recommendation made in a report of the Ombudsman or the Auditor-General concerning the Council or the University:

- (a) whether or not the recommendation relates to a referral by the Minister under section 21E, and
- (b) whether or not the recommendation relates to a University commercial activity (as defined in section 21A).

Division 2 Property

18 Powers of Council relating to property

- (1) The Council:
 - (a) may acquire by gift, bequest or devise any property for the purposes of this Act and may agree to carry out the conditions of any such gift, bequest or devise, and
 - (b) has the control and management of all property at any time vested in or acquired by the University, and may, subject to this section, dispose of property in the name and on behalf of the University.
- (2) The Council shall not, except with the approval of the Minister, alienate, mortgage, charge or demise any lands of the University.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the Council may, without the approval of the Minister, lease any lands of the University if:
 - (a) the term of the lease does not exceed 21 years, and
 - (b) the Council is satisfied that it is to the benefit of the University, whether from a financial or educational standpoint or otherwise, that the lease be entered into.
- (4) In the case of a lease of any lands of the University, or any renewal of the lease, to a residential college affiliated with the University, the lease:
 - (a) shall be for a term not exceeding 99 years, and
 - (b) shall be at a nominal rent, and
 - (c) shall contain a condition that the lease shall not be assigned and such other conditions as the Council thinks fit.
- (5) The rule of law against remoteness of vesting does not apply to or in respect of any condition of a gift, bequest or devise to which the University has agreed.

19 Powers of Council over certain property vested in Crown

- (1) Where any property used for the conduct of the University is vested in the Crown or a

Minister of the Crown (whether as Constructing Authority or otherwise), the Council has the control and management of that property and is responsible for its maintenance.

- (2) Nothing in subsection (1) enables the Council to alienate, mortgage, charge or demise any land vested in the Crown or a Minister of the Crown (whether as Constructing Authority or otherwise).
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the Council may (on behalf of the Crown or a Minister of the Crown) lease land of which it has, pursuant to this section, the control and management.
- (4) Such a lease:
 - (a) shall be for a term not exceeding 21 years, and
 - (b) shall contain a condition that the lease shall not be assigned and such other conditions as the Council thinks fit.
- (5) The Council is, in the exercise of its functions under this section, subject to the control and direction of the Minister.

20 Acquisition of land

- (1) The Minister may, for the purposes of this Act, acquire land (including an interest in land) by agreement or by compulsory process in accordance with the [Land Acquisition \(Just Terms Compensation\) Act 1991](#).
- (2) The Minister may do so only if the University:
 - (a) applies to the Minister for acquisition of the land, and
 - (b) makes provision to the satisfaction of the Minister for the payment of the purchase price or of compensation for compulsory acquisition (together with all necessary charges and expenses incidental to the acquisition).
- (3) For the purposes of the [Public Works Act 1912](#), any acquisition of land under this section is taken to be for an authorised work and the Minister is, in relation to that authorised work, taken to be the Constructing Authority.
- (4) Sections 34, 35, 36 and 37 of the [Public Works Act 1912](#) do not apply in respect of works constructed under this section.

21 Grant or transfer of certain land to University

- (1) If land on which the University is conducted is vested in the Crown or a Minister of the Crown (whether as Constructing Authority or otherwise), the land may:
 - (a) if it is vested in the Crown—be transferred to the University subject to such trusts,

conditions, covenants, provisions, exceptions and reservations as the Minister for Natural Resources thinks fit, or

- (b) if it is vested in a Minister of the Crown—be conveyed or transferred to the University for such estate, and subject to such trusts and rights of way or other easements, as the Minister in whom the land is vested thinks fit.

(2) A conveyance, transfer or other instrument executed for the purposes of this section:

- (a) is not liable to stamp duty under the [Stamp Duties Act 1920](#), and
- (b) may be registered under any Act without fee.

Division 3 Commercial activities

21A Definitions

In this Division:

the Guidelines means the guidelines approved for the time being under section 21B.

University commercial activity means:

- (a) any activity engaged in by or on behalf of the University in the exercise of commercial functions of the University, and
- (b) any other activity comprising the promotion of, establishment of or participation in any partnership, trust, company or other incorporated body, or joint venture, by or on behalf of the University, that is for the time being declared by the Guidelines to be a University commercial activity.

21B Guidelines for commercial activities

- (1) The Minister on the advice of the Treasurer may approve Guidelines requiring specified processes and procedures to be followed in connection with University commercial activities.
- (2) The Council may submit proposals for the Guidelines to the Minister for approval.
- (3) Without limitation, the Guidelines may contain provision for or with respect to the following in connection with University commercial activities:
 - (a) requiring feasibility and due diligence assessment,
 - (b) requiring the identification of appropriate governance and administrative arrangements (including as to legal structures and audit requirements),
 - (c) requiring the undertaking of risk assessment and risk management measures,
 - (d) regulating and imposing requirements concerning the delegation by the Council of

any of its functions under this Act in connection with University commercial activities,

- (e) declaring a specified activity to be a University commercial activity for the purposes of paragraph (b) of the definition of that expression in section 21A,
- (f) establishing a protocol regarding the rights and responsibilities of members of the Council in relation to commercialisation, with a view to avoiding real or apparent conflicts of interest.

- (4) The Council must ensure that the Guidelines are complied with.
- (5) The Minister's power to approve Guidelines is not limited by any proposals for Guidelines submitted by the Council or any failure by the Council to submit proposals for the Guidelines.
- (6) Guidelines are approved by the Minister by giving notice in writing to the Council of the approved Guidelines. The power of the Minister on the advice of the Treasurer to approve Guidelines under this section includes the power to amend or rescind and replace the Guidelines from time to time.

21C Register of commercial activities

- (1) The Council is to maintain a Register of University commercial activities and is to enter and keep in the Register the following details of each of those activities:
 - (a) a description of the activity,
 - (b) details of all parties who participate in the activity,
 - (c) details of any appointment by or on behalf of the University to relevant boards or other governing bodies,
 - (d) details of any meetings at which relevant matters were considered and approved for the purposes of compliance with the Guidelines,
 - (e) such other details as the Guidelines may require.
- (2) The Guidelines may make provision for the following:
 - (a) exempting specified activities or activities of a specified class from all or specified requirements of this section,
 - (b) altering the details to be included in the Register in respect of specified activities or activities of a specified class,
 - (c) enabling related activities to be treated as a single activity for the purposes of the Register.

- (3) The Council must comply with any request by the Minister to provide the Minister with a copy of the Register or any extract from the Register.

21D Reports to Minister on commercial activities

- (1) The Minister may request a report from the Council as to University commercial activities or as to any particular University commercial activity or aspect of a University commercial activity.
- (2) The Council must provide a report to the Minister in accordance with the Minister's request.

21E Referral of matters to Ombudsman or Auditor-General

The Minister may refer a University commercial activity or any aspect of a University commercial activity (whether or not the subject of a report by the Council to the Minister):

- (a) to the Auditor-General for investigation and report to the Minister, or
- (b) as a complaint to the Ombudsman that may be investigated by the Ombudsman as a complaint under the [Ombudsman Act 1974](#).

Part 5 General

22 Advance by Treasurer

The Treasurer may, with the approval of the Governor, advance to the Council money for the temporary accommodation of the University on such terms and conditions in relation to repayment and interest as may be agreed upon.

22A Stamp duty exemption

- (1) Unless the Treasurer otherwise directs in a particular case, neither the University nor the Council is liable to duty under the [Duties Act 1997](#), in respect of anything done by the University or Council for the purposes of the borrowing of money or the investment of funds of the University under this Act.
- (2) The Treasurer may direct in writing that any other specified person is not liable to duty under the [Duties Act 1997](#) in respect of anything done for the purposes of the borrowing of money or the investment of funds of the University under this Act, and the direction has effect accordingly.

23 Financial year

The financial year of the University is:

- (a) if no period is prescribed as referred to in paragraph (b)—the year commencing on 1 January, or

(b) the period prescribed by the by-laws for the purposes of this section.

24 No religious test or political discrimination

A person shall not, because of his or her religious or political affiliations, views or beliefs, be denied admission as a student of the University or be ineligible to hold office in, to graduate from or to enjoy any benefit, advantage or privilege of the University.

25 Exemption from membership of body corporate or Convocation

A student or graduate of the University or a member of staff of the University is entitled to be exempted by the Council, on grounds of conscience, from membership of the body corporate of the University or of Convocation, or both.

26 Re-appointment or re-election

Nothing in this Act prevents any person from being re-appointed or re-elected to any office under this Act if the person is eligible and otherwise qualified to hold that office.

27 Seal of University

The seal of the University shall be kept in such custody as the Council may direct and shall only be affixed to a document pursuant to a resolution of the Council.

28 By-laws

- (1) The Council may make by-laws, not inconsistent with this Act, for or with respect to any matter that is required or permitted to be prescribed or that is necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act and, in particular, for or with respect to:
 - (a) the management, good government and discipline of the University,
 - (b) the method of election of members of the Council (other than the parliamentary members) who are to be elected,
 - (c) the manner and time of convening, holding and adjourning the meetings of the Council or Academic Senate,
 - (d) the manner of voting (including postal voting or voting by proxy) at meetings of the Council or Academic Senate,
 - (e) the functions of the presiding member of the Council or Academic Senate,
 - (f) the conduct and record of business of the Council or Academic Senate,
 - (g) the appointment of committees of the Council or Academic Senate,
 - (h) the quorum and functions of committees of the Council or Academic Senate,

- (i) the resignation of members of the Council, the Chancellor, the Deputy Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor,
- (j) the tenure of office, stipend and functions of the Vice-Chancellor,
- (k) the designation of members of staff of the University as academic staff, non-academic staff, full-time staff, part-time staff or otherwise,
- (l) the number, stipend, manner of appointment and dismissal of officers and employees of the University,
- (m) admission to, enrolment in and exclusion from courses of studies,
- (n) the payment of such fees and charges, including fines, as the Council considers necessary, including fees and charges to be paid in respect of:
 - (i) entrance to the University,
 - (ii) tuition,
 - (iii) lectures and classes,
 - (iv) examinations,
 - (v) residence,
 - (vi) the conferring of degrees and the awarding of diplomas and other certificates,
 - (vii) the provision of amenities and services, whether or not of an academic nature, and
 - (viii) an organisation of students or of students and other persons,
- (o) the exemption from, or deferment of, payment of fees and charges, including fines,
- (p) without limiting the operation of paragraphs (n) and (o), the imposition and payment of penalties for parking and traffic infringements,
- (q) the courses of lectures or studies for, the assessments for and the granting of degrees, diplomas, certificates and honours and the attendance of candidates for degrees, diplomas, certificates and honours,
- (r) the assessments for, and the granting of, fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries and prizes,
- (s) the admission of students and former students of other universities and institutions of higher education to any status within the University or the granting to graduates of such universities or institutions, or to other persons, of degrees or

diplomas without examination,

- (t) the establishment and conduct of places of accommodation for students (including residential colleges and halls of residence within the University) and the affiliation of residential colleges,
- (u) the affiliation with the University of any educational or research establishment,
- (v) the creation of faculties, schools, departments, centres or other entities within the University,
- (w) the provision of schemes of superannuation for the officers and employees of the University,
- (x) the form and use of academic costume,
- (y) the form and use of an emblem of the University or of any body within or associated with the University,
- (z) the use of the seal of the University, and
- (aa) the making, publication and inspection of rules.

(2) A by-law has no effect unless it has been approved by the Governor.

29 Rules

- (1) The by-laws may empower any authority (including the Council) or officer of the University to make rules (not inconsistent with this Act or the by-laws) for or with respect to any or all of the matters for or with respect to which by-laws may be made, except the matters referred to in sections 3 (2), 9 (5), 10 (2), 14 (1), 16 (1) (d) and (e), 23 and 28 (1) (b) and (k) and clauses 1 (d) and (e) and 3 of Schedule 1.
- (2) A rule:
 - (a) has the same force and effect as a by-law, and
 - (b) may, from time to time, be amended or repealed by the Council (whether or not the Council is empowered to make such a rule), or by the authority or officer of the University for the time being empowered to make such a rule, and
 - (c) takes effect on the day on which it is published or on such later day as may be specified in the rule, and
 - (d) must indicate the authority or officer who made the rule and that it is made under this section.
- (3) In the event of an inconsistency between a by-law and a rule, the by-law prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

- (4) The fact that a provision of this Act specifically provides for a matter to be the subject of by-laws (without mention of rules) does not prevent the matter from being the subject of rules made in accordance with this section.

30 Recovery of charges, fees and other money

Any charge, fee or money due to the University under this Act may be recovered as a debt in any court of competent jurisdiction.

31 Repeal etc

- (1) The *University of Newcastle Act 1964* is repealed.
- (2) The Council of the University of Newcastle, as constituted immediately before the repeal of the *University of Newcastle Act 1964*, is dissolved.
- (3) The persons holding office as members of the Council, Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor immediately before the repeal of the *University of Newcastle Act 1964* cease to hold office as such on that repeal.

32 Savings and transitional provisions

Schedule 3 has effect.

Schedule 1 Provisions relating to members and procedure of the Council

(Section 9)

1 Term of office

Subject to this Act, a member of the Council holds office:

- (a) in the case of a parliamentary member, until a member of the House of Parliament that elected the member is elected as a replacement,
- (b) in the case of an official member, while the member holds office by virtue of which he or she is a member,
- (c) in the case of an appointed member, for such term (not exceeding 4 years) as may be specified in the member's instrument of appointment,
- (d) in the case of an elected member referred to in section 9 (5) (a), (b), (c) or (c1), for such term (not exceeding 2 years) as may be prescribed by the by-laws, and
- (e) in the case of an elected member referred to in section 9 (5) (d), for such term (not exceeding 4 years) as may be prescribed by the by-laws.

2 Vacation of office

The office of a member of the Council becomes vacant if the member:

- (a) dies,
- (b) declines to act,
- (c) resigns the office by writing under his or her hand addressed:
 - (i) in the case of the parliamentary member who is a Member of the Legislative Council, to the President of the Legislative Council,
 - (ii) in the case of the parliamentary member who is a Member of the Legislative Assembly, to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly,
 - (iii) in the case of an appointed member (other than a member appointed by the Council under section 9 (6)), to the Minister, or
 - (iv) in the case of an elected member or a member appointed by the Council under section 9 (6), to the Vice-Chancellor.
- (d) in the case of an appointed or elected member, becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes any assignment of his or her remuneration for their benefit,
- (e) in the case of an appointed or elected member, becomes a temporary patient or a continued treatment patient within the meaning of the [Mental Health Act 1958](#), a forensic patient within the meaning of the [Mental Health Act 1983](#) or a protected person within the meaning of the [Protected Estates Act 1983](#),
- (f) is convicted in New South Wales of an offence that is punishable by imprisonment for 12 months or more or is convicted elsewhere than in New South Wales of an offence that, if committed in New South Wales, would be an offence so punishable,
- (g) in the case of an appointed or elected member, is absent from 3 consecutive meetings of the Council of which reasonable notice has been given to the member personally or in the ordinary course of post and is not, within 6 weeks after the last of those meetings, excused by the Council for his or her absence,
- (h) in the case of the parliamentary member elected by the Legislative Council:
 - (i) ceases to be a Member of that Council otherwise than by reason of section 22B (1) (c) of the [Constitution Act 1902](#), or
 - (ii) ceases to be a Member of that Council by reason of section 22B (1) (c) of that Act and does not become a candidate at the next periodic Council election within the meaning of section 3 of that Act or, as the case may be, becomes a candidate but

is not elected,

- (i) in the case of a parliamentary member elected by the Legislative Assembly:
 - (i) ceases to be a Member of that Assembly otherwise than by reason of its dissolution or its expiration by effluxion of time, or
 - (ii) ceases to be a Member of that Assembly by reason of its dissolution or its expiration by effluxion of time and does not become a candidate at the next general election of Members of that Assembly or, as the case may be, becomes a candidate but is not elected,
- (j) in the case of an elected member, ceases to be qualified for election,
- (k) in the case of an appointed member (other than a member appointed by the Council under section 9 (6)), is removed from office by the Minister, or
- (l) in the case of a member appointed by the Council under section 9 (6), is removed from office by the Council.

3 Filling of vacancy in office of member

- (1) If the office of an appointed or elected member of the Council becomes vacant, a person shall, subject to this Act and the by-laws, be appointed or elected to fill the vacancy.
- (2) The by-laws may provide that, in such circumstances (other than expiration of term of office) as may be prescribed, a person shall be appointed or elected in such manner as may be prescribed instead of in the manner provided for by this Act.

4 Committees of the Council

- (1) The Council may establish committees to assist it in connection with the exercise of any of its functions.
- (2) It does not matter that any or all of the members of a committee are not members of the Council.
- (3) The procedure for the calling of meetings of a committee and for the conduct of business at those meetings shall be as determined by the Council or (subject to any determination of the Council) by the committee.

5 Liability of Council members and others

No matter or thing done or omitted to be done by:

- (a) the University, the Council or a member of the Council, or
- (b) any person acting under the direction of the University or the Council,

shall, if the matter or thing was done or omitted to be done in good faith for the purpose of executing this or any other Act, subject a member of the Council or a person so acting personally to any action, liability, claim or demand.

6 General procedure

The procedure for the calling of meetings of the Council and for the conduct of business at those meetings shall, subject to this Act and the by-laws, be as determined by the Council.

7 Presiding member

- (1) The Chancellor shall preside at all meetings of the Council at which the Chancellor is present.
- (2) At any meeting of the Council at which the Chancellor is not present, the Deputy Chancellor shall preside and, in the absence of both the Chancellor and the Deputy Chancellor, a member elected by and from the members present shall preside.
- (3) Except as provided by subclause (4), at the meetings of a committee constituted by the Council a member appointed by the Council (or, if no member is so appointed, elected by and from the members present) shall preside.
- (4) At any meeting of a committee constituted by the Council at which the Chancellor is present, the Chancellor is entitled, if he or she so desires, to preside at that meeting.

8 Quorum

At any meeting of the Council, a majority of the total number of members for the time being of the Council constitutes a quorum.

9 Voting

A decision supported by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the Council at which a quorum is present is the decision of the Council.

Schedule 2 Investment

(Section 16)

1 Definition of “funds”

For the purposes of this Schedule, the funds of the University include funds under the control of the University and real property, securities or other property comprising an investment.

2 Investment powers

- (1) The Council may invest the funds of the University in any manner approved by the Minister from time to time by order in writing with the concurrence of the Treasurer.

- (2) The Minister is to maintain a Register of approvals in force under this clause. The Register is to be open to inspection by any person on payment of such fee as the Minister may require.
- (3) A certificate issued by the Minister certifying as to an approval in force under this clause is evidence of the matter certified.

2A Funds managers

- (1) The Council may, with the written approval of the Treasurer and in accordance with that approval, engage an approved funds manager to act in relation to the management of the funds of the University.
- (2) An approved funds manager is a person designated as an approved funds manager for the University in the Treasurer's approval.
- (3) The Treasurer's approval may be given only on the recommendation of the Minister and may be given subject to terms and conditions.
- (4) An approved funds manager may on behalf of the Council, subject to any terms and conditions of the Treasurer's approval, invest funds of the University in any investment in which the funds manager is authorised to invest its own funds or other funds.
- (5) The terms and conditions of an approval under subclause (4) are to restrict the investment powers of an approved funds manager in connection with the University to the investments in which the funds of the University may be invested under clause 2.

3 Investment common funds

- (1) The Council may establish one or more investment common funds.
- (2) The Council may from time to time, without liability for breach of trust, bring into or withdraw from any such investment common fund the whole or any part of trust funds or other funds of the University.
- (3) Subject to subclause (4), the Council must periodically distribute the income of each investment common fund among the funds participating in the common fund, having regard to the extent of the participation of each fund in the common fund during the relevant accounting period.
- (4) The Council may, if it considers it expedient to do so, from time to time add some portion of the income of an investment common fund to the capital of the common fund or use some portion of the income to establish or augment a fund or funds as a provision against capital depreciation or reduction of income.
- (5) If an investment is brought into an investment common fund:
 - (a) the University is to be taken to hold that investment on behalf of and for the

benefit of the common fund instead of the participating trust fund or other fund, and

- (b) that participating fund is to be taken to have contributed to the common fund an amount of money equivalent to the value attributed to the investment by the Council at the time it is brought into the common fund, and
 - (c) on the withdrawal of that participating fund from the common fund, the amount of money to be withdrawn is to be the amount equivalent to the value attributed by the Council to the equity in the common fund of that participating fund at the time of withdrawal.
- (6) The inclusion in an investment common fund of trust funds does not affect any trust to which those trust funds (or money attributed to them) are subject.
- (7) On the withdrawal of trust funds from an investment common fund, the funds (or money attributed to them) continue to be subject to the trust.

4 Terms of trust to prevail

In respect of the trust funds of the University:

- (a) the investment powers of the Council, and
 - (b) the power of the Council to bring the trust funds into an investment common fund,
- are subject to any express direction in or express condition of the trust.

Schedule 3 Savings and transitional provisions

(Section 32)

Part 1 Interim Council

1 Interim Council of the University

- (1) Pending the commencement of section 9, the Council of the University shall consist of:
- (a) the Chancellor (if the Chancellor is not otherwise a member of the Council),
 - (b) the Vice-Chancellor,
 - (c) the person for the time being holding the office of:
 - (i) presiding member of the Academic Senate (if that person is not the Vice-Chancellor), or
 - (ii) deputy presiding member of the Academic Senate (if the presiding member is the Vice-Chancellor),

- (d) the person who held office immediately before the commencement of this clause as the Principal of the New South Wales State Conservatorium of Music (Newcastle Branch),
 - (e) the person who held office immediately before the commencement of this clause as the Principal of the Hunter Institute of Higher Education, and
 - (f) not more than 15 persons appointed by the Minister.
- (2) The members of the Council shall, subject to this Act, hold office until the Council is duly constituted under section 9.
 - (3) The first meeting of the Council shall be convened by the first Vice-Chancellor who shall preside at all meetings of the Council until a Chancellor is elected.
 - (4) The Council shall make all necessary by-laws and take all necessary steps to ensure, as far as possible, that a Council is duly constituted under section 9 so as to take office within 12 months after the commencement of this clause or within such extended time as is specified in a proclamation at any time during that period of 12 months.
 - (5) The provisions of this Act (except clause 1 of Schedule 1) applicable to the Council or the members of the Council apply to the Council as constituted in accordance with this clause or the members holding office under this clause.
 - (6) Nothing in this Act prevents the Council from being constituted in accordance with this clause before the commencement of section 4 and, if the Council is so constituted, it may exercise its functions (as far as is practicable) even though the University has not yet been established under this Act.

2 Chancellor

- (1) The Council constituted under this Part shall:
 - (a) at its first meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter, and
 - (b) whenever a vacancy in the office of Chancellor occurs,elect a person (whether or not a member of the Council) to be Chancellor of the University.
- (1A) The Chancellor elected under this clause does not assume office before the commencement of section 4 otherwise than for the purpose of exercising his or her functions as a member of the Council.
- (2) The Chancellor elected under this clause shall, subject to this Act, hold office until a Chancellor is duly elected under section 10.

- (3) Section 10 (1) and (2) do not apply to or in respect of the Chancellor elected under this clause.

3 Deputy Chancellor

- (1) The Council constituted under this Part shall:
- (a) at its first meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter, and
 - (b) whenever a vacancy in the office of Deputy Chancellor occurs,
- elect one of its members to be Deputy Chancellor of the University.
- (1A) The Deputy Chancellor elected under this clause does not assume office before the commencement of section 4.
- (2) The Deputy Chancellor elected under this clause shall, subject to this Act, hold office until a Deputy Chancellor is duly elected under section 11.
- (3) Section 11 (1) and (2) do not apply to or in respect of the Deputy Chancellor elected under this clause.

4 First Vice-Chancellor

- (1) The first Vice-Chancellor shall be the person who, immediately before the commencement of this clause, held office as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle.
- (2) The first Vice-Chancellor shall be taken to have been appointed for the residue of his or her term of office as Vice-Chancellor immediately before that commencement.
- (3) Section 12 (2) does not apply to or in respect of the first Vice-Chancellor.

Part 2 Savings

5 University a continuation of the old University

The University is a continuation of, and the same legal entity as, the University of Newcastle established by the [University of Newcastle Act 1964](#).

6 Convocation

- (1) Convocation includes:
- (a) past members of the governing body of any of the former institutions that have, pursuant to this Act or to the [Higher Education \(Amalgamation\) Act 1989](#) or otherwise, become a part of the University, and
 - (b) graduates of any of those institutions.

- (2) In this clause, a reference to a former institution includes a reference to any predecessor of the institution.

7 Savings of delegations

Any delegation made or taken to have been made by the Council of the University of Newcastle under the [University of Newcastle Act 1964](#) shall be taken to be a delegation under this Act by the Council.

8 Existing investments

Nothing in this Act affects the validity of any investment made on behalf of the University before the commencement of Schedule 2.

8A Conduct of elections etc

- (1) For the purpose only of enabling the Council to be duly constituted on or after the commencement of section 9, elections may be conducted and appointments made before that commencement as if:
- (a) the whole of this Act, and
 - (b) sections 8 and 11 of the [Higher Education \(Amalgamation\) Act 1989](#), were in force.
- (2) A member who is elected or appointed to the Council under this clause does not assume office before the commencement of section 9.

8B Control and direction

The governing bodies of:

- (a) the University of Newcastle established under the [University of Newcastle Act 1964](#),
- (b) the Conservatorium of Music (Newcastle branch) within the meaning of the [Higher Education \(Amalgamation\) Act 1989](#), and
- (c) the Hunter Institute of Higher Education,

are subject to the control and direction of the Council pending the dissolution of those bodies.

9 By-laws

The University of Newcastle By-laws:

- (a) continue in force as if they had been made by the Council, and
- (b) may be amended and revoked accordingly.

10 Visitor

- (1) Section 13 (2) extends to disputes and other matters arising before the commencement of this clause.
- (2) However, if an inquiry by or at the direction of the Visitor into a dispute or other matter has commenced or been completed before the commencement of this clause, the dispute or other matter is to be dealt with and determined as if the *University Legislation (Amendment) Act 1994* had not been enacted.

11 Effect of the *University Legislation (Amendment) Act 1994* on existing by-laws and rules

- (1) Any by-law made or taken to have been made under this Act and in force immediately before the commencement of this clause is taken to have been made under this Act as amended by the *University Legislation (Amendment) Act 1994*, but only to the extent to which it could have been made under this Act if this Act had been so amended at the time the by-law was made.
- (2) Any rule in force immediately before the commencement of this clause is taken to have been made under this Act as amended by the *University Legislation (Amendment) Act 1994*, but only to the extent to which it could have been made under this Act if this Act had been so amended at the time the rule was made.

12 Elected members

If, on the commencement of the amendments to section 9 made by Schedule 1 to the *Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No 2) 1999*, the membership of the Council fails to comply with section 9 (5) as so amended, there is for the purposes of clause 3 (1) of Schedule 1 to this Act taken to be a vacancy in the office of the member in respect of which the failure exists.

Part 3 Provisions consequent on enactment of *Universities Legislation Amendment (Financial and Other Powers) Act 2001*

13 Investment powers

Until an order is made under clause 2 of Schedule 2 (as substituted by the *Universities Legislation Amendment (Financial and Other Powers) Act 2001*), approval is taken to have been given by order under that clause to the investment by the Council of any funds of the University in any manner that the Council was authorised to invest those funds immediately before the Council ceased to be an authority for the purposes of Part 3 (Investment) of the *Public Authorities (Financial Arrangements) Act 1987*.

13 Validation

Any act or omission occurring before the substitution of section 6 by the *Universities*

Legislation Amendment (Financial and Other Powers) Act 2001 that would have been valid had that section as so substituted been in force from the commencement of that section as originally enacted is (to the extent of any invalidity) taken to be, and always to have been, valid.