

Guide to the Key Documents Prepared for the Councils of The University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia

Introduction

The University of Adelaide (UoA) and the University of South Australia (UniSA) commenced joint consideration of a potential amalgamation in 2022. This followed the election of a new South Australian Government, with its signalled policy intent to explore whether a merger of the State's universities was in the interest of the South Australian economy and the welfare of the people of the State. Each university had separately considered a potential merger in the context of its own strategic planning.

In late 2022, the universities' Councils each resolved to progress a joint feasibility assessment for the creation of a new *Adelaide University* through the combination of the two institutions. The Councils' resolutions required the institutions to produce a series of documents to provide the necessary information on which they could determine whether to support the amalgamation to create the new university.

At their respective Council meetings in June, and on the basis of the jointly prepared documents, each university found it to be in the best interests of its individual institution and collectively in the interest of the State of South Australia, to support the signalled policy intent of the State Government. Given the significance of the decision taken by the Councils to support the South Australian Government to take the necessary steps to legislate for the creation of *Adelaide University*, the universities are releasing extensive summary versions of the documents requested by the Councils and prepared during the Feasibility Assessment.

This guide provides an overview of the purpose and content of those documents to provide context for the decisions taken by the Council to progress.

Background to the Feasibility Assessment

The *Joint White Paper*, completed in November 2022, set the vision for a *University for the Future* and the work that followed formed the basis of the Councils' resolutions to progress the assessment and feasibility of creating a new university through the amalgamation of the two universities.

An intense joint Feasibility Assessment was progressed in the first half of 2023 which informed the Councils' consideration of whether to progress to create *Adelaide University*, subject to the decision of the SA State Government to pass enabling legislation.

The Councils requested a series of key documents to support their respective decisions of whether to progress the creation of a new university, which were jointly developed and ultimately delivered in June 2023.

The documents provided key information and data as requested by the Councils and addressed the following key questions:

White Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the potential future opportunities that could be achieved by combining the two universities and what is the vision for the new university?
Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the benefits of creating the new <i>Adelaide University</i> and what contingent costs, risk management and investments are required to achieve them?
Transition Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What principles and approaches would enable the future ambition for <i>Adelaide University</i> and how would the integration and transition be progressed to ensure they are achieved?
Universities' Heads of Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What governance processes need to be established and how will the universities collaborate to progress the integration through transition?
State Government proposed investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What investment has the South Australian Government proposed to de-risk and ensure the success of the new <i>Adelaide University</i>? (This information is set out in a subsequently published SA Government Heads of Agreement.)

Document Guide

The documents prepared for the Councils necessarily relied on commercially sensitive material in parts which is not appropriate for wider publication. Versions with modifications to commercially sensitive content have been prepared to preserve commercial in confidence information whilst providing broader context to our valued stakeholders.

The collection of documents was prepared to be considered in tandem with each other, so that overall they address the requirements of the Councils' resolutions in providing a coherent evidence base for their consideration whether, subject to the passing of State legislation, to support the creation of the new *Adelaide University*.

Further information

For further information please access the following links:

[Adelaide University Microsite](#)

[Adelaide University Resources](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The comprehensive summary versions of key documents presented in these Council Papers are outlined below in Table 1.

Table 1: Public-Facing Documents – Document Purpose/Summary

Key Questions Answered		Document	Document Purpose/Summary
		Guide to the Key Documents Prepared for Council	Introductory information to provide an overview of the key documents considered in Councils decision in June 2023.
		Document	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has been proposed? • What is the opportunity? • What is the ambition of the new university and what shape does that take? 	1	Comprehensive Summary - Creating a University for the Future 'White Paper'	Outline the ambition and vision of the new university and describe in broad terms what a university of the future might look like and what investment would be required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are we doing this and what are the benefits? • What is the impact on institutional performance? • What is the impact of the new university on the State? 	2	Comprehensive Summary of Business Case	Provide a summary of the proposal , with a focus on community benefits, university performance & financial sustainability.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are we getting there? • What does the new university look like on Day One? • What is the approach to achieve the future ambition of <i>Adelaide University</i>? 	3	Transition Plan (Extract)	Provide clarity on the aspirations of <i>Adelaide University</i> across key dimensions of activity (curriculum, research, student and staff experience, market engagement) and the pathway to achieving them through integration of the current universities, providing confidence that the transition to <i>Adelaide University</i> is feasible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens now? • How will we operate in the interim? • What is the legal operating structure before Day One of <i>Adelaide University</i>? 	4	Comprehensive Summary of Universities' Heads of Agreement	Agreed terms between UniSA & UoA for the governance and management during the transition period to establish <i>Adelaide University</i> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What funding has the SA Government proposed to support the transition to <i>Adelaide University</i>? • What form will the proposed funding take? 	5	State Government Heads of Agreement	Provide a record of each parties' intentions in respect of progressing the funding proposal .