

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

**Professor S Bruce Dowton**  
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**MACQUARIE**  
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SYDNEY • AUSTRALIA

17 December 2020

Committee Secretary  
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [NatSecUni@aph.gov.au](mailto:NatSecUni@aph.gov.au)

Dear Secretary

**Inquiry into National Security Risks affecting  
the Australian higher education and research sector  
Submission from Macquarie University**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the above Inquiry on behalf of Macquarie University.

Macquarie University is a research-intensive university with a valued international student population and we strive to be a research collaborator of choice for world-leading researchers and research end-users around the globe. As such, we are pleased to see the level of attention and scrutiny the Government is applying to safeguard Australia and its research from potential risks of foreign interference.

As a leading Australian university, we acknowledge the integral role we play in developing and maintaining positive, productive and mutually beneficial partnerships with researchers and research institutions both in our immediate international region and further afield. We anticipate being able to contribute to the maintenance of reciprocal and synergistic relationships with partners around the world while minimising and mitigating any and all security risks posed by foreign interference.

We have been actively collaborating with Universities Australia to share best practice in our systems and processes and to learn from the experiences and successes of other universities. We are poised to work closely with relevant Government departments and agencies to further strengthen our risk mitigation strategies and to ensure compliance with the germane legislative and regulatory frameworks. We anticipate being able to achieve this while maintaining the research collaborations with international partners that are so vital to Australia's continued research success. It will be important that we develop processes that enable us to adhere to Government requirements without placing a restrictive administrative burden on our researchers and it will be our priority to work with the University Foreign Interference Taskforce to ensure we find this balance.

We welcome the Government's continued consultation with the higher education and research sector on implementing the recent legislation on *Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory*



*Arrangements*) and hope that this will enable and promote a common understanding of the issues we are faced with as a nation and the ways we can work together to solve them.

Ultimately, we look forward to working with Government and other Australian universities to safeguard Australia's research future.

Please get back to me if I can be any further help with this matter or if you should need any additional information.

Sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of S Bruce Dowton.

S Bruce Dowton