



Australian Academy of Science

Ian Potter House, Gordon Street, Canberra 2601

NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR SCIENCE National Committee for Astronomy

BUSINESS PLAN or WORK PLAN Including TIMELINES for up to 5 years

1. Aims of this National Committee

To act as a peak body for astronomy in Australia...

- promoting the national value and benefits of the astronomical sciences;
- facilitating community-wide strategic planning initiatives; and
- managing relations between Australian astronomers and the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

2. Strategies to allow these aims to be achieved

- Propose and encourage activities in Australia that will enhance the status of the astronomy discipline in collaboration with the Astronomical Society of Australia, Astronomy Australia Limited, and other professional and regional societies.
- Undertake decadal reviews of astronomy, and mid-term reviews as required.
- Support the planning for Australian involvement in current and future large-scale astronomical facilities.
- Liaise with the IAU through its President, Executive and Commissions, and promote active Australian involvement in the IAU at all levels.
- Promote and encourage Australian participation in a range of relevant international forums, such as OECD Global Science Forums.
- Liaise with the Academy's Executive Committee on astronomy-related matters.

3. Plan of work/activities for up to 5 years including timelines

- Monitor the implementation of the Astronomy Decadal Plan 2006-2015.
- Perform a Mid-Term Review of the Decadal Plan in 2010, reviewing progress to date, updating goals, and revising implementation plans.
- Plan for and support Australian involvement in the IAU General Assembly to be held in Beijing in August 2012.
- Build on the success of Australia's participation in the International Year of Astronomy with a plan for the next 5 years for maintaining and building public awareness and support for astronomy.
- Liaise with the Academy to identify appropriate astronomy resources as part of the Academy's science education activities.



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4. Proposed budget details (see attached spreadsheet)

The main elements in the proposed budget are:

a. Funding to support NCA meetings. Note that the budget limit of \$3000 only provides partial support for the two meetings held by the NCA each year. It mainly pays for the Canberra meeting, with the second meeting organised around the Astronomical Society of Australia's annual scientific meeting to save costs.

Total: \$3000 p.a.

b. Voting delegates at IAU: Australia typically has three voting delegates at IAU General Assemblies. The next IAU GA is to be held in Beijing in 2012.

Total: \$7500 in 2012

c. Mid-Term Review: The Mid-Term Review of the Astronomy Decadal Plan will be conducted in 2010. The review requires funds to support the meetings of the review committee, consultants for bibliometric review and business plan, and the publication of the review document.

Total: \$15,000 in 2010

Progress against these identified Work Plan activities will be reported on in the Chairs' annual reports to the Academy. Work Plans for 2009 can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Note: This plan will be published on the National Committee page of the Academy of Science website www.science.org.au/natcoms.

Please complete and return this form by 24 December 2009 to:

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