



Australian Academy of Science

Ian Potter House, Gordon Street, Canberra 2601

NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR SCIENCE National Committee for Astronomy

2012 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 by

- 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

- Plan for and support Australian involvement in the IAU General Assembly to be held in Beijing in August 2012.
- By 2014, begin preparations for the 2016-2025 Decadal Plan.
- Consider an Australian bid to host the IAU Asia-Pacific Regional meeting (bids will be due in 2015 for a 2017 meeting)
- Liaise with the Academy to identify appropriate astronomy resources as part of the Academy's science education activities.

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.



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Total: \$7500 in 2012

National Committee Initiatives fund

Committees can also apply for additional funding of up to \$10,000 for projects. Please use the attached spreadsheet, and complete the **“National Committee Initiatives Additional information for larger projects”** form for projects seeking \$5,000 or more.

Progress against these identified Work Plan activities will be reported on in the Chairs' annual reports to the Academy. Work Plans for 2011 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.