

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2008 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: [Earth System Science](#)

CHAIR: Dr Roger M. Gifford

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2008

Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008.

NOTE: This report will be published on the Academy of Science website at
www.science.org.au/natcoms

MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON:

[April 30 2008 \(teleconference\)](#)
[Sept 25 2008 \(Canberra\)](#)
[Nov 10 2008 \(teleconference\)](#)

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2009 (include date and place, if possible):

[Jan 21 2009 \(teleconf\)](#)
[April, Nov 2009](#)

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

IN 2008 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

[Fourth IGBP Congress, Cape Town, May 5-9 2008 \(Roger Gifford was the Australian delegate\)](#)
[General Meeting of SCOR, Woods Hole Massachusetts. Oct 22-24 2008 \(John Volkman was the Australian delegate\)](#)

IN 2009 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

[WCRP. Thirtieth session of the Joint Scientific Committee \(JSC\), College Park, MD, USA Apr 6-9 2009](#)

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held in 200_

[IUGG Congress will be held in 2011 in Melbourne](#)
[ESSP is expected to hold an Open Science Congress in 2010 or 2011](#)

I RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING VOTING AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION: (include title, name, address, telephone, email and fax number)
[Not applicable](#)

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2008 WERE:

(include all appointed/elected memberships of subsidiary bodies, standing committees, commissions etc. as well as appointments to Bureau/Executive positions in the governing body).

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
<i>ESS-relevant bodies to which Australia pays a national subscription:</i>			
Dr Trevor McDougall	SCOR	Australian Rep,	
Dr Trevor McDougall	Sea Water Dynamics Group	Chair	
Prof Andy Pitman	IGBP	Australian Rep	
Dr Mark Stafford-Smith	IGBP	Vice-Chair Scientific Committee	2007-?
Dr David J Griggs	WCRP	Chair, Joint Scientific Committee	2008-?
Dr A Worby	ClIC	Vice-chair Scientific Steering Group	

ESS-relevant bodies to which Australia does not pay subscription:

Dr Ian Allison	SCAR	On Open Science Conference Committee	
Dr Ian Allison	IPY	Co-Chair IPY joint ICSU-WMO Committee	
Dr Ian Allison	IACS	President	
Dr John Zillman	GCOS	Chair, Scientific Steering Committee	
Prof Tom Trull	GOOS	Member Scientific Steering Committee	
Dr John Gunn	GOOS	Member Scientific Steering Committee	
Dr Ros Taplin	IHDP	Australian contact	
Dr David Yeates	DIVERSITAS	Australian Rep	

Affiliations between ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies and Joint Initiatives.

Earth Systems Science Partnership (IGBP, WCRP, IHDP, DIVERSITAS)

Prof Tony McMichael	Global Environmental Change and Human Health (GECHH)	Co-Chair of Scientific Steering Committee	
Dr Michael Raupach	Global Carbon Project (GCP)	Co-Chair of Scientific Steering Committee	
Dr Pep Canadell	Global Carbon Project (GCP)	Executive Director	

Systems for Analysis Research and Training (ESSP, IHDP, IGBP, WCRP)

Dr Graeme Pearman	START	Co-chair of Scientific Steering Committee	
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THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2009:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2008 Business Plan. 2008 Business plans can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2008anrep.htm>, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2007 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2008 (200-250 words):

[Your Report, as presented here, will be published in April 2009, in the National Committees for Science section of the Academy's Annual Report for 2008-2009].

The synthesis and recommendations document on “**Vegetation dynamics and global climate change: Research priorities for the next decade**” was signed-off by the Academy of Science Executive Committee in December 2008. The document is a product of the committee's strategic planning activities and derived from an open planning workshop in August 2007 followed by multiple steps of wide comment and modification prior to completion. Negotiations are under way with the Department of Climate Change for its publication in 2009. The document had its impact, through direct discussion and via an NCESS submission to the exposure draft of an NCRIS review, on the decision making of the Facilitator for the establishment of the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) under NCRIS. The convening of a national collegiate process to develop a decadal strategic research plan for Earth System Science did not attract the LASP funding applied for. However, funding was secured from the Department of Climate Change to support the development of the process, and a proposed draft document has continued to evolve within NCESS for release as an exposure draft for general comment and input and as a background document for a planning workshop in 2009. An “urgency statement” on the need for balanced long term expansion of climate change research capacity in the areas of research infrastructure, human resources, and information management was prepared by NCESS and sent to Ministers Wong, Garrett, Carr and Gillard by the President. The statement also formed the basis of the Committee's submission to the Cutler Review of the National Innovation System. The Chair of NCESS attended the Fourth IGBP Congress in Cape Town as the Australian delegate. There he presented a public poster highlighting Australian ESS, participated in the special 2-day meeting there of representatives of national committees for the IGBP and helped to prepare, and delivered to the final Congress plenary, the summary of conclusions from that special meeting. NCESS contributed an item to the IGBP Bulletin in October 2008. NCESS also helped to contribute comment by the Academy on the July 2008 exposure draft to the Garnaut Review into greenhouse gas emission trading, and responded to questions arising from discussion with Professor Garnaut.

Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008 to:

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