



Australian Academy of Science

Ian Potter House, Gordon Street, Canberra 2601

NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR SCIENCE National Committee for Geography

2009 BUSINESS PLAN or WORK PLAN, including TIMELINES AND PROPOSED BUDGETS

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

1. Aims of this NC.

In keeping with Academy guidelines the NCG has a mandate to:

- liaise with the International Geographical Union (IGU) through its Executive and Commissions,
- propose and encourage activities that will enhance the status of the Geography discipline and promote cooperation between professional and regional societies,
- encourage and support Australian geographers in all vocational areas to join IGU commissions and attend IGU Congresses, and
- inform the IGU of Australian activities and ensure our views are heard.

2. Strategies to allow these aims to be achieved.

We will continue to develop our role as a peak body for Geography in Australia by:

- enhancing communication with other geographical organisations, e.g. the Institute of Australian Geographers
- participating in discussions over the place of Geography in school curricula, via the National Curriculum process.

3. Plan of work/activities (and proposed budget details) in 2008 which will achieve the aims:

Our major activity for 2009 will be to participate in the National Curriculum progress for Geography. The National Curriculum Board will produce a national curriculum for geography during the second phase of its work. Australian geographical organisations, including the NCG (along with the Institute of Australian Geographers and teacher organisations), are collaborating to develop a unified position on a K to 12 national geography curriculum, prior to the Board commencing its work on geography. A paper titled *Geography in the 21st Century: a National Curriculum for Australia* will be written using the National Curriculum Board's subject-specific



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documents. A draft of the paper will be available by March 2009 for further review, and the final document will be ready in July 2009 (or earlier, if the Federal Government accelerates the process). There will be wide consultations on this draft, including meetings in each state.

We plan to use the publicity around this process to write newspaper and journal articles that highlight the importance of geographic education in equipping young Australians to deal with questions of national importance, for example climate change.

Some funding may be needed for the incoming Chair (Professor Nigel Tapper, Monash University) to travel to Canberra to participate in relevant discussions.

Funds will also be required for the committee to meet in Canberra in October.

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

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