

# **AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**

## **National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2006 activities**

### **TASK FORCE FOR: Nuclear Matters & Australian Research Reactor**

**CHAIR: Prof John W White**

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2006

**Please complete and return this form by 15 December 2006.**

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

### **MEETINGS OF THE TASK FORCE**

THE TASK FORCE MET ON:

The task force did not meet in 2006 . The group proposed a briefing from ANSTO in April but was recommended to wait because of expected delays in commissioning of OPAL. (See report)

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2007 (include date and place, if possible):

- (1) It is proposed that the group will begin an assessment of the evidence on radiation and health in 2007-01-09. The possible ways ahead will be an agendum of the next meeting.
- (2) The next briefing on the Replacement Research reactor (OPAL) will be after June 2006 due to the delay in starting the cold source and the user program.

### **MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU**

IN 2006 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

Not Applicable

IN 2007 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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 2006 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
--------	--------------------	----------	----------------

Not Applicable

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2007:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
--------	--------------------	----------	----------------

Not Applicable

<p><b>ACTIVITIES OF TASK FORCE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2006 Business Plan. 2006 Business plans can be viewed at <a href="http://www.science.org.au/natcoms">www.science.org.au/natcoms</a></b></p>
--

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2006anrep.pdf> pp17-27, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2005 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCE IN calendar year 2006 (200-250 words):

The Committee's chief focus since 1994 has been the Replacement Research reactor (OPAL) and the provision of advice to Council on its desirability and qualities. In 2006 there were delays in the licensing and construction process - in particular the operation of the "cold neutron" source and the instruments. Nevertheless the OPAL reactor has now run at full power (20 MW) without the cold source and that is an important milestone. Several refrigerators for the cold source have failed and progress here will be reviewed in June 2007 when the "friendly user" program of research begins. The reactor will be formally opened by the Prime Minister on 18 March 2007. HIFAR - the previous reactor will be formally shut down by The Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Education, Science and Training, on 30 January 2007.

Individual members of the Committee have been active in nuclear affairs. Professor John White has been the President of the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering in 2006. A new research fellowship scheme has been introduced to create new groups in Australian Universities. He serves as the Australian representative on the OECD Nuclear Physics working group and participated in the Channel 9 television debate (July 2006) on nuclear energy for Australia.

Professor George Dracoulis served as a member of the Prime Minister's review panel UMPNER (Uranium Minerals Processing and Nuclear Energy Review) (September - December 2006) on nuclear energy options for Australia, and Professor Kurt Lambeck was a member of the expert committee that reviewed the UMPNER report

**Please complete and return this form by 15 December 2006 to:**

Jeanette Mill  
National Relations Officer  
Australian Academy of Science  
E [jeanette.mill@science.org.au](mailto:jeanette.mill@science.org.au)  
P 02 6201 9413  
F 02 6201 9494

Ian Potter House, Gordon St, Canberra, ACT, Australia, 2600  
GPO Box 783, Canberra, ACT, Australia, 2601