

## **Mid-Term Review of the Astronomy Decadal Plan 2006-2015**

The NCA's Astronomy Decadal Plan 2006-2015 was released in late 2005; it is now time to prepare for a Mid-Term Review, with the aim of making this available in late 2010. Following discussions at the July 2009 joint meeting of the NCA and astronomy Heads of Departments, the December 2009 meeting of the NCA agreed the following terms of reference, process, and timeline for the Mid-Term Review.

### ***Terms of Reference***

The Mid-Term Review of the Decadal Plan for Astronomy 2006-15 will:

1. re-affirm the main goals and priorities of the Decadal Plan, and provide a succinct update on the state of Australian astronomy and significant changes since the completion of the Decadal Plan;
2. review the recommendations of the Decadal Plan, reporting on the extent to which they have been accomplished, and whether unfulfilled recommendations remain appropriate or require revision; and
3. review current plans for implementing the original or updated recommendations of the Decadal Plan and provide revised implementation plans with priorities and contingencies, focussing on the period 2011-2015 but addressing the longer term where appropriate.

### ***Process and Timeline***

1. The NCA has appointed a Mid-Term Review Committee to lead the review process. The MTR Committee is chaired by the NCA Chair and has broad representation across astronomical fields and institutions. The members of the MTR Committee are: Elaine Sadler (Chair; Sydney), Lister Staveley-Smith (UWA), Stuart Wyithe (Melbourne), Kate Brooks (ATNF), Scott Croom (Sydney, t.b.c.), Darren Croton (Swinburne), Brian Schmidt (ANU).
2. The MTR Committee will meet early in 2010 to form a plan for carrying out the Mid-Term Review in accord with the Terms of Reference. This plan and an associated budget will be submitted to the NCA for review and approval by 19 March 2010.
3. The MTR Committee will provide a first draft of the Mid-Term Review for NCA and community review at the time of the ASA meeting in July 2010, where there will be a half-day session on the Mid-Term Review.
4. The Committee will complete the Mid-Term Review and submit a final draft to the NCA by 30 October 2010.
5. The NCA will consider this draft at its 6 December 2010 meeting and provide the final version of the Mid-Term Review to the AAS Executive Committee, the ARC and the astronomical community.