

National Committee for Physics

A committee of the Australian Academy of Science

Australian Research Council
Via email: centres@arc.gov.au

19 November 2014

To whom it may concern

Re: Consultation on the ARC Centres of Excellence scheme for funding commencing in 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the selection process for the Centres of Excellence (COEs). The National Committee for Physics (NCP) of the Australian Academy of Science is pleased to respond on this matter.

The COEs remain very important for Australian science as they allow for medium-term strategic research on a national level. They are ideally suited for tabletop experiments that are central to some parts of physical sciences. As such the NCP is pleased that a new round will be funded in 2017. We agree with the objectives and selection criteria and support the increase in the maximum allocation.

The two-stage selection process is acceptable and the first stage should not require a full external review. We suggest that applicants are instructed to write Expressions of Interest in such a way that will allow non-experts to assess against the primary selection criteria.

It would be beneficial if successful EOIs could be combined in order to strengthen the national impact of the proposals.

The full application should be reviewed as widely as possible and should involve experts for each area addressed in the application. Ensuring that an appropriate range of experts is involved in the selection process should be a priority when the expert panel is being selected.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this matter. I would be very happy to discuss this further with you should you require more information. Please contact the National Committee office at ia@science.org.au.

Yours sincerely

Professor Hans Bachor FAA

Chair, National Committee for Physics

