

Committee:	National Committee for Earth Sciences
Period covered:	1 July 2013 – 30 June 2016
Chair:	Professor Sue O’Reilly FAA
Version and date:	FINAL 29 November 2013

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To connect the Academy to science and scientists in Australia; 2. To link the Academy to Australian scientific and relevant professional societies and to foster a collaborative supportive culture for Earth Sciences in Australia in order to work together to promote the development of the discipline; 3. To link Australian science in the disciplines to world science, in particular through the membership of appropriate international organisations; 4. To ensure that Australia has a voice and a role in the global development of the disciplines; 5. To provide strategic science policy advice, to the Academy, as input to Academy science policy statements, and (with the approval of the Executive Committee of Council) to the Australian Government and Australian organisations. 6. To provide representation to relevant Government areas (with the approval of the Executive Committee of Council) to promote the role of Earth Sciences in Australia’s ongoing prosperity and well-being with reference to National Strategic Priorities, STEM (Science, Technology and Mathematics) position paper (www.chiefscientist.gov.au/2013/07/science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-in-the-national-interest-a-strategic-approach/) and SCER (Standing Council on Energy and Resources: www.scer.gov.au/) 7. Engage with relevant Academy National Committees on issues of common interest and opportunity 7. To produce a decadal plan for Earth Sciences in Australia.
Description and objectives	<p>The National Committee for Earth Sciences (NCES) is a committee of the Council of the Australian Academy of Science. The broad aims of the committee is to foster Earth Sciences in Australia, to link the Academy to Australian earth scientists and relevant scientific societies and to serve as a link between Australian and overseas earth scientists, primarily through the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUAR), the International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) and the International Union for Geological Sciences (IUGS)</p> <p>The aim of the NCES is to shape future directions for earth sciences in Australia including the production of a decadal plan for the discipline. Through this, the committee aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and encourage community-wide strategic planning

	<p>initiatives;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage with the national UNCOVER initiative generated by the Academy) http://science.org.au/policy/uncover.html) through the Chair of NCES • Promote the national value and benefits of the earth sciences • Interface with relevant Earth Science industry and stakeholders through the UNCOVER committees and representation at national UNCOVER forums • Develop a conduit to engage with State, Territory and Geological Surveys and Geoscience Australia • Manage relations between Australian earth scientists, the Academy and IUGG, IUGS and INQUR.
Coverage	<p>Science of the solid earth, including quaternary research — geology, geochemistry, geophysics, and geomorphology. Coverage includes mineralogy, volcanology, igneous and metamorphic petrology, geochronology, major, trace-element and isotope geochemistry, earth resources and ore deposit geology; sedimentology, stratigraphy, palaeontology, energy resources, basin analysis, hydrogeology, regolith and landscape evolution; structural geology and tectonics; geodynamics and geodynamic modelling; geodesy, seismology, heat flow and potential field geophysics; extra-terrestrial geology, marine geosciences and quaternary geosciences.</p>
Linked international organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUR) • International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) • International Union for Geological Sciences (IUGS)
Key connected organisations	<p>Links to other National Committees: Earth System Science, Antarctic Research. Other links may be identified through liaison and communication with other Chairs</p> <p>Australian Societies and Organisations: Australian Geoscience Council, and its members, including Geological Society of Australia, Australian Institute of Geoscientists, Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Australasian Quaternary Association, Australian Chapter, International Association of Hydrogeologists, Institute of Australian Geographers, Institution of Surveyors, Australia, Australian Association of Palaeontologists, Australian Institute of Energy, Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Australian Society of Soil Science, Geological Society of Australia, Australian Archaeological Association, Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, Australian Regolith Geoscientists Association.</p> <p>International Organisations: International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), International Union for Quaternary Science (INQUA).</p>
Key outcomes	<p>1. Approved committees structure and membership (annual);</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Approved annual report (annual); 3. Undertake a decadal plan for Earth Sciences in Australia (ongoing); 4. Contributions to national policy development; communication of the importance of the Earth Sciences as a key discipline relevant to Australia’s prosperity and well-being, in collaboration the UNCOVER initiative, industry stakeholders and by engaging with relevant national organisations and instrumentalities including State and Territory Geological Surveys and Geoscience Australia 5. Development of a communication strategy and mechanism to contribute information items about NCES to key Society Publications and to Earth Science Departments in Australian Universities 6. Liaise with INQR, IUGG and IUGS through their Presidents, Executive and Commissions, and promote active Australian involvement in these at all levels; 7. Provide input through the Chair of NCES or nominee for the selection of the biennial Mawson Medal award 8. Establish by representation on the relevant Committee, the nature of the funds available from the 34th Brisbane International Geological Congress and set up a framework for the intended application of these funds to promote activities for Early Career Researchers. 9. Development of a strategy to secure financial and other resources to assist in the delivery of its activities, including contributions to the Australian subscriptions to International Organisations. 10. Annual review of Terms of Reference
Indicative budget	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$3000 per annum for meetings provided by AAS 2. Up to \$2500 provided by AAS to support attendance at international meetings of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INQR (2015) • IUGG (2015) • IUGS (2016)
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Approved by / date	388 EXCOM, December 2013