

## **Belmont Forum Roundtable**

Monday 11 September 2017

Jaeger Room, Shine Dome, Canberra

### **COMMUNIQUE**

The Shine Dome in Canberra was the backdrop for Australian Academy of Sciences' hosting of the Belmont Forum. The meeting was chaired by Professor Ian Chubb, Future Earth Australia Advisory Council.

The Belmont Forum brings together many of the world's major funding agencies and the International Council of Science. Its core focus is to work with its members to bring its significant expertise to the challenges faced by global environmental change. That expertise ensures that it can coordinate and leverage effort internationally to best effect.

Australia's position and influence within both the international, and (closer to home) the Asia-Pacific region places it in an increasingly important position to influence research and communication efforts on issues facing the global environment.

Australia is currently a member and today's meeting was to explore how that commitment could be increased and focused.

The meeting heard from the Belmont Forum's Dr Maria Uhle (co-chair) and Dr Erika Key (Executive Director) about the work and influence of the Belmont Forum in encouraging collaborative research and communication efforts across borders to address common country, regional and international needs. They emphasised the critical role that stakeholders play not only in the identification of issues but also in the co-design of the solutions. Other speakers included: Professor Andrew Holmes, President, Australian Academy of Science; Dr Paul Bertsch, Acting Director Land and Water, CSIRO who currently manages Australia's Belmont Forum relationship; and Professor Stephen Dover: Chair of the Future Earth Australia Steering Committee. Participants included members of the learned academies; representatives of federal government departments and research funding agencies; and universities and research institutes

Today's discussion reinforced the importance of the joint efforts across the Australia's research sector both domestically and internationally; and there was a great deal of enthusiasm in the room around exploring the strategic opportunities for Australia's ongoing involvement with the Forum.

Participants agreed that Australia should continue to extend its involvement in the Belmont Forum and the next step is to further explore and finalise the Australian representation on the Belmont Forum.