

Meetings of National Committees

Please contact the [National Committees Officer](#) if you are interested in attending or receiving minutes from a meeting of another committee.

Upcoming meetings

Earth Sciences, telecon, 5 August

Brain and Mind, telecon, 6 August

Information and Communication Sciences, Canberra, 7 August

Ecology, Evolution and Conservation, Canberra, 21 August

Physics, telecon, 10 September

Recent meetings

Astronomy, telecon, 27 and 30 March; Perth, 7 July

Nutrition, telecon, 9 April and 7 May

Earth Sciences, Canberra, 17 April

Physics, telecon, 17 April

Materials Science and Engineering, Canberra, 21 April

Mathematical Science, Canberra, 1 May

Cellular and Developmental Biology, telecon, 5 May

Information and Communication Sciences, telecon, 8 and 13 May

History and Philosophy of Science, telecon, 15 May

Crystallography, Canberra, 27 May

Space and Radio Science, Canberra, 10 June

Earth System Science, Canberra, 12 June

Data in Science, Canberra, 18 June

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Canberra, 19 June

Updates on ICSU unions

Australian elections to union bodies

International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) Bureau, Member 2015-2019, Professor Chris Rizos.

Current General Assemblies and Australian voting delegates

Union	Meeting	Voting delegate(s)
International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics	22 June – 2 July 2015, Prague	Prof Ian Allison Dr Tom Beer E/Prof Ray Cas Prof Ian Jackson Prof Fred Menk Prof Chris Rizos Dr Chris White Dr Susan Wijffels
International Union for Quaternary Research	27 July - 2 August 2015, Nagoya	Dr Jessica Reeves
International Union for History and Philosophy of Science	3-8 August 2015, Helsinki	A/Prof Rachel Ankeny
International Astronomical Union	3-14 August 2015, Hawaii	Prof Andrew Hopkins Prof Carole Jackson Prof Stuart Wyithe
International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry	6-14 August 2015, Korea	Prof Mary Garson Prof Brynn Hibbert Dr Graeme Moad FAA
International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	24-28 August 2015, Brazil	A/Prof Janet Macaulay Prof Philip Nagley
International Federation for the Promotion of Mechanism and Machine Science	25-30 October 2015, Taipei	Prof Ross McAree
International Union for Biological Sciences	14-16 December 2015, Berlin	Prof John Buckeridge

Input into science policy

Importance of advanced Biological Sciences to the Australian economy

The Academy is working with the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Centre for International Economics (CIE) to produce a report on the importance of the advanced biological sciences to the Australian economy. This work follows a [previous report](#) on the economic impact of the advanced physical and mathematical sciences, released in March this year. The National Committees for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Biomedical Sciences, Brain and Mind, Cellular and Developmental Biology, Earth System Science, Ecology, Evolution and Conservation and Nutrition will be involved in this project to provide expert input. The Academy also plans to work closely with the Australian Academy of Health and Medical sciences on this project. The full report and estimates of direct and flow-on impacts is expected in October/November this year.

Decadal plan updates

LASP Project - Science decadal plans for a stronger, healthier, more prosperous Australia

The NC for Chemistry, chaired by Prof Paul Mulvaney FAA, has drafted the first Chemistry Decadal Plan for Australia. The draft will soon be available to the scientific community for comment. The Committee expects to have the final version ready to launch by the end of the year.

The NC for Earth Sciences, chaired by Prof Sue O'Reilly FAA, is progressing the Earth Sciences decadal plan. A survey is being developed to assess the current state of knowledge in Earth Sciences in Australia post 2013, when the previous National strategic plan for the geosciences finished. The survey will be available to the scientific community in the coming months.

The NC for Agriculture, chaired by Dr Jeremy Burdon FAA, has begun the consultation process for the Agriculture Decadal plan. Over the next five months, participants representing a broad spectrum of the agricultural sciences will be brought together for workshops to identify and prioritise the most important scientific questions in the field for the next decade.

Agriculture Decadal Plan

Regional Meetings for Agriculture Decadal Plan:

Canberra, 28 April 2015

Brisbane, 15 June

Adelaide, 30 June

Wagga-Wagga, TBC

Melbourne, TBC

Australia in the Era of Global Astronomy: The Decadal Plan for Australian Astronomy 2016 – 2025

The 2016-25 Decadal Plan for Australian Astronomy was launched to the Astronomy community at Curtin University in Western Australia on 7 July.

[Download the Astronomy Decadal Plan](#)

[View the project website](#)

Decadal Plan for Chemistry

[View the project website](#)

Decadal Plan for the Mathematical Sciences

[View the project website](#)

Mid-Term review of the 2010-2019 Decadal Plan for Australian Space Science

[View the project website](#)

Committee projects and events

Upcoming events

[Australian Society for Microbiology: Guts to Great Oceans](#)

Shine Dome, Canberra, 12 July 2015 from 4.00pm

Most people know that microbes cause disease and many are now aware that there are both good and bad bacteria. But this knowledge is still couched in the context of human health. What most people don't know is that microorganisms are vitally important to all life on Earth. From their role in the human gastrointestinal tract to their role in wastewater treatment and the turning of the biogeochemical cycles of planet Earth, microbes are both our ancestors and our modern day life support systems. This is a public lecture by internationally acclaimed microbiologists Janet Jansson, Mike Manefield and Stephen Giovannoni.

[Public lecture: Lasers Can Do Anything](#)

Shine Dome, Canberra, 19 September 2015 from 11.00am

Celebrating the UNESCO International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies. This is an exciting show with fun demonstrations about the invention of the laser. Explore how lasers work and how they improve our lives. A show for curious people: students, teachers, parents and grandparents. Presented by Patrick Helean & Professor Hans Bachor

Roundtable with Professor Geoffrey Boulton

The NC for Data in Science organised a roundtable on 18 June, 'Open data: Where do we stand and how do we move forward?'. This was an opportunity to hear from the President of CODATA (International Council for Science Committee on Data for Science and Technology) Professor Geoffrey Boulton, who was visiting Australia, about how the UK is dealing with the issues surrounding creating and supporting an open data culture.

The Belmont Forum's recent open data survey revealed that only 41% of Australian researchers are motivated to share data (by a personal commitment to open data) versus 72% in the US and 68% in the UK. The key purpose of the roundtable was to identify the key issues and challenges associated with open data that are facing

Australia, and to build a roadmap for creating a culture of open data in Australia. The roundtable was attended by Australia's Chief Scientist and senior representatives of the National Library of Australia, the ARC and NHMRC, research agencies including the CSIRO, Bureau of Meteorology, Geoscience Australia, NecTAR, and the Research Data Services Project, and research data infrastructure funding agencies, the federal Departments of Education and Training, and Industry and Science.

In the coming months the committee plans to develop a policy paper on 'Realising an open data culture in Australia' with key recommendations to guide whole-of-government and higher education investments and approaches to advance open data in Australia.