

National Committee for Astronomy

A committee of the Australian Academy of Science

Decadal plan for Australian astronomy 2016-2015 Mid-Term Review

The *Decadal plan for Australian astronomy: 2016-2025* was released in July 2015; it is now time to prepare for a Mid-Term Review (MTR), with the aim of making this available in late 2020. Following discussions at the June 2018 meeting of the National Committee for Astronomy (NCA), the December 2018 NCA meeting agreed to the following terms of reference, process and timeline for the review:

Terms of Reference

The Mid-Term Review of the *Decadal plan for Australian astronomy: 2016-2025* will:

1. review 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 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 2021-2025 but addressing the longer term where appropriate.

Process and Timeline

1. The NCA will appoint a CapOp Committee to inform the review process: Lister Staveley-Smith (NCA chair, ICRAR/UWA), Sarah Brough (UNSW), Amanda Karakas (Monash), Christoph Federrath (ANU), Eric Thrane (Monash).
2. The CapOp committee will summarise, update and combine the ten capability papers submitted to the NCA in December 2018 into a single *Capability and Opportunities* paper. The paper will be submitted to the NCA for review and approval prior to its meeting at the Astronomical Society of Australia (ASA) meeting at the University of Queensland in July 2019.



3. The NCA will appoint an MTR committee: Lister Staveley-Smith (NCA Chair 2019-2021; ICRAR/UWA), Tamara Davis (University of Queensland), Amanda Karakas (Monash University), Chris Tinney (University of New South Wales), Cathryn Trott (ICRAR/Curtin, President ASA). The MTR committee will oversee the process of receiving community input relevant to the MTR during the second half of 2019. The MTR chair will present a budget and a plan of community consultation to the NCA by the July meeting of the ASA.
4. The MTR Committee will provide a first draft of the MTR for NCA and community review in early 2020.
5. The MTR Committee will complete the MTR and submit a final draft to the NCA by end May 2020.
6. The NCA will consider this draft at its July 2020 meeting and provide the final version of the MTR to the Australian Academy of Science's Executive Committee, the Australian Research Council and the astronomical community by the of end July 2020 for publication and launch by 30 October 2020.