

Committee:	National Committee for Astronomy
Period covered:	1 July 2013 – 31 December 2015
Chair:	Professor Stuart Wyithe
Version and date:	DRAFT Final approved by EXCOM 26 September 2013

Purpose / context	<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 societies 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 management of relations between Australian astronomers and the International Astronomical Union (IAU); 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 promote the national value and benefits of the astronomical sciences; and 7. To facilitate community-wide strategic planning initiatives;
Description and objectives	<p>The NC Astronomy is a committee of the Council of the Australian Academy of Science. The broad aims of the committee is to foster Astronomy in Australia, to link the Academy to Australian astronomers and relevant scientific societies, and to serve as a link between Australian and overseas astronomers, primarily through the International Astronomical Union (IAU).</p> <p>The National Committee for Astronomy (NCA) carries out a formal strategic planning process on a 10-year time scale. This provides the opportunity for Australian astronomy to carry out a stock take of its capabilities, assess its impact both nationally and internationally, provide a vision for the future and to set priorities and develop strategies on how that vision might be implemented.</p> <p>The document <i>New Horizons, A Decadal Plan for Australian Astronomy 2006-15</i> has been highly influential as a tool for presenting our vision to key stakeholders outside the research sector. This includes Australian Astronomy's key stakeholder, the Commonwealth Government, as well as industrial/research partners both nationally and internationally. The currency of the last Decadal Plan for Australian Astronomy concludes in 2015. A focus of the NCA is development of the next Decadal Plan for the period 2016-25.</p> <p>The NCA proposes and encourages activities in Australia that will enhance the</p>

	status of the astronomy discipline, in collaboration with the Astronomical Society of Australia, Astronomy Australia Limited and other professional and regional societies. Support the planning for Australian involvement in current and future large-scale astronomical facilities.
Coverage	Fundamental astronomy; facilities, technologies and data science; education, outreach and heritage; high energy phenomena; planetary systems and bioastronomy; stars and stellar physics; interstellar matter and local universe; and galaxies and cosmology.
Linked international organisation	International Astronomical Union (IAU)
Key connected organisations	<p>Links to other National Committees: Physics, Space and Radio Science, Antarctic Research, Data in Science</p> <p>Australian Societies and Organisations: Astronomical Society of Australia, Astronomy Australia Limited.</p> <p>International Organisations: International Astronomical Union, International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, International Union of Radio Science (URSI), Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA).</p>
Key outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved committees structure and membership (annual); 2. Approved annual report (annual); 3. Engagement with Australian astronomers by seeking opportunities to discuss NC activities at general meetings of the societies; 4. Engagement with relevant Australian societies and organisations, by having the nominee of the President of the Astronomical Society of Australia on the NCA, by inviting representatives of other relevant bodies as observers to NCA meetings (e.g. AAL), and seeking opportunities to provide a regular statement of NCA activities to Astronomical Society of Australia meetings (e.g. Heads of Department meeting); 5. Engagement with relevant national committees on issues of common interest; 6. Engagement with the IAU and other international organisations, including nomination of delegates at IAU General Assemblies, and consultation with Australian members of Commissions, Working Groups, and Committees; 7. Promotion of the Australian Astronomy Decadal Plan 2006-2015 (ongoing); 8. Development of the Australian Astronomy Decadal Plan 2016-2025; 9. Obtaining financial and other resources to assist in the delivery of its activities, including contributions to the Australian subscriptions to International Organisations;

Indicative budget	(\$3000 provided per annum / \$2500 per ISU meeting. Include all other activities.) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. \$3000 per annum for meetings provided by AAS2. Up to \$2500 provided by AAS to support attendance at international meetings of IAU GA (2015)
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Approved by / date	