



ASKAP 01

September 2009

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ATUC meeting Director's Report

Lewis Ball
Oct 2009



Welcome

- Sarah Maddison (Chair)
- Indra Bains
- Hayley Bignall
- John Dickey
- Tara Murphy
- Chris Springob
- James Urquhart
- Andrew Walsh
- Dhruba Saikia - overseas visitor
- Elizabeth Mahoney – student
- Aquib Moin – student
- Stacy Mader – secretary

Successes and Issues

- Outstanding staff
- SIEF established
- Australia Telescope Steering Committee
- ASKAP
 - 10 Survey Science Projects move to Design Study
 - Antenna 1 on the way
- Astronomy highlights
 - CABB science
 - Pulsars, radio – x-ray and radio – γ -ray links
- CABB zoom modes delayed
- CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science

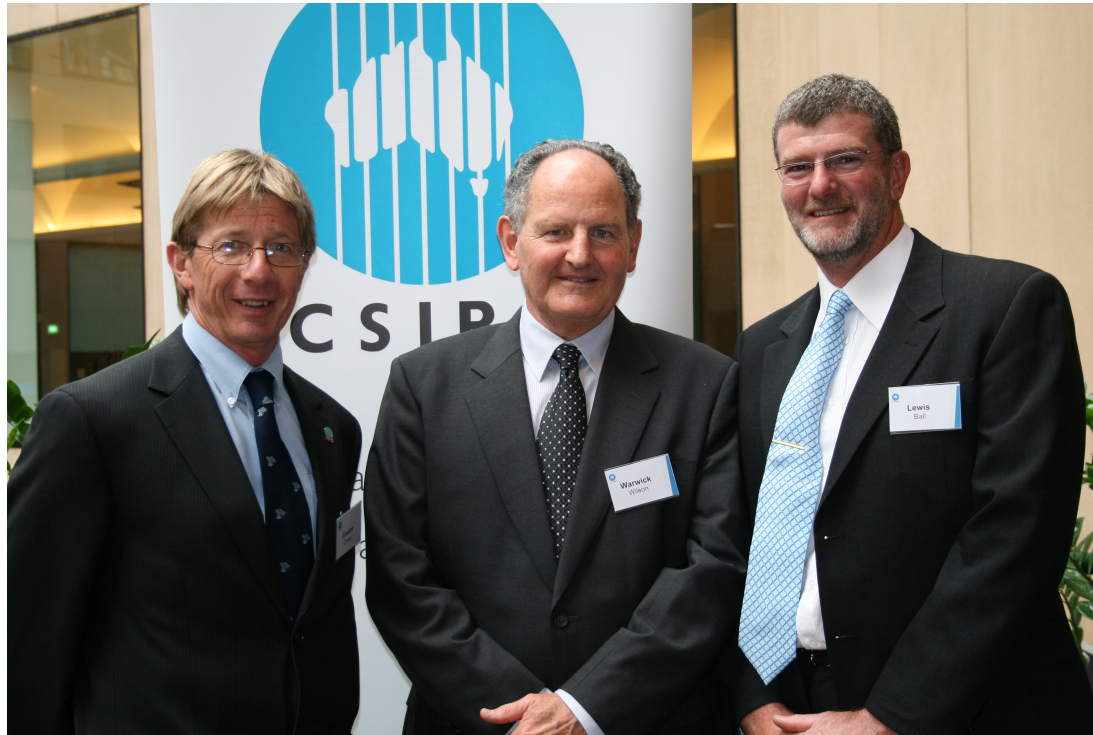
John O'Sullivan

- 2009 Prime Minister's Prize for Science
- 2009 CSIRO Chairman's Medal to the 802.11 WLAN Team



Warwick Wilson

- 2009 CSIRO Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr Wilson has provided inspirational leadership spanning 27 years, ensuring the consistent development and delivery of benchmark research instrumentation that has helped establish and maintain CSIRO's position as a world leader in the field of radio astronomy.

ATSC

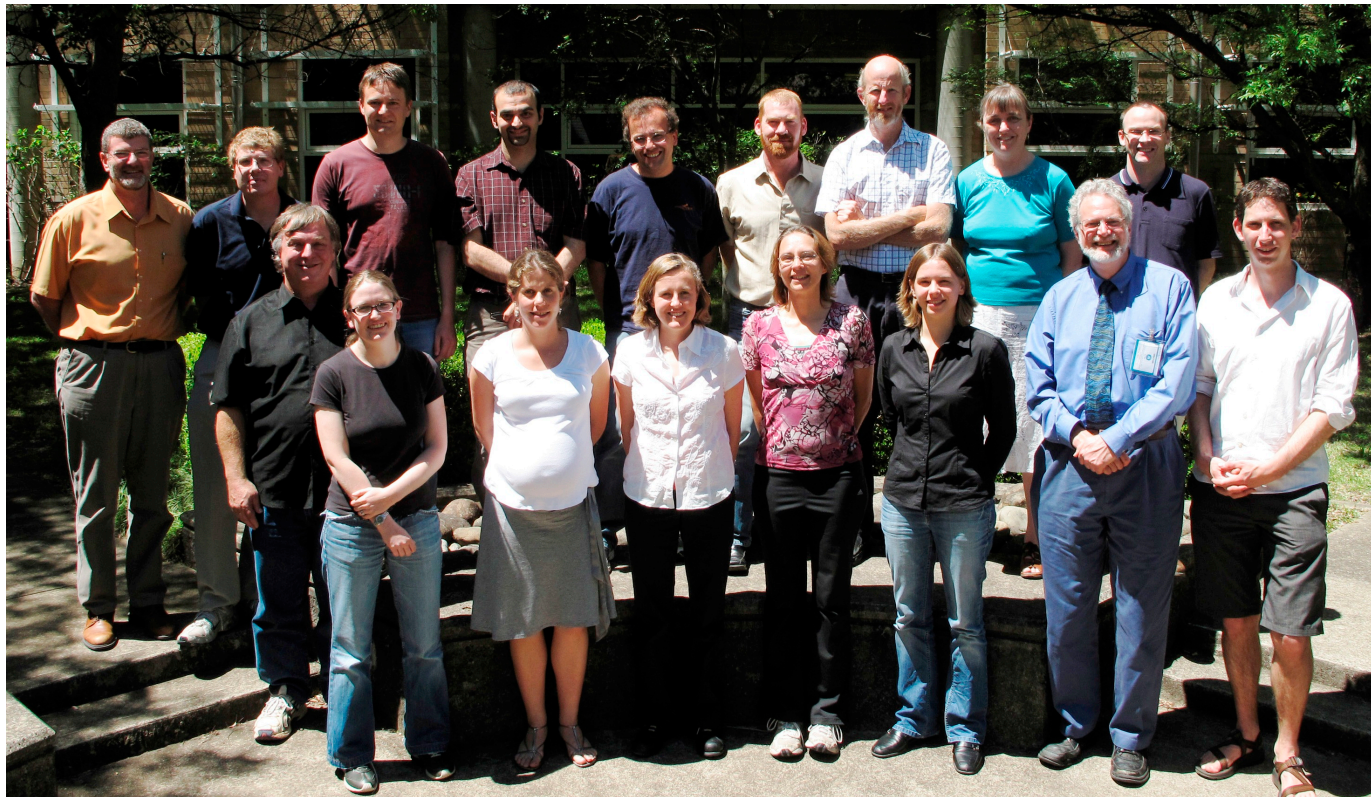
- Role reaffirmed by Minister Carr
- Five new appointments
- Met 27-28 July
 - Brett Biddington, Chair
 - Tony Beasley
 - Alan Brien
 - Bryan Gaensler
 - Michael Kramer
 - Nan Rendong
 - Lister Staveley-Smith
 - Rachel Webster
 - Matthew Colless
 - Alex Zelinsky

Science & Industry Endowment Fund

- Announced by Minister Carr on 20 October
- \$150M from CSIRO's 802.11 WLAN Licencing
- Trustee: Megan Clark
- Advisory panel: Alan Robson, Tom Spurling, Margaret Shiel, Nigel Poole, Ezzio Rizzardo
- Targeted support for individuals and organisations across the national innovation system to undertake scientific research in all disciplines for the benefit of Australia.
- Three initial grants
 - \$2M Chair of Wireless Technologies, CSIRO – U. Macquarie
 - \$7.5M Scholarships & Fellowships including ICT, Maths and Engineering
 - \$10M for next generation wireless technologies, including application to the NBN

ASKAP SSP Design Study

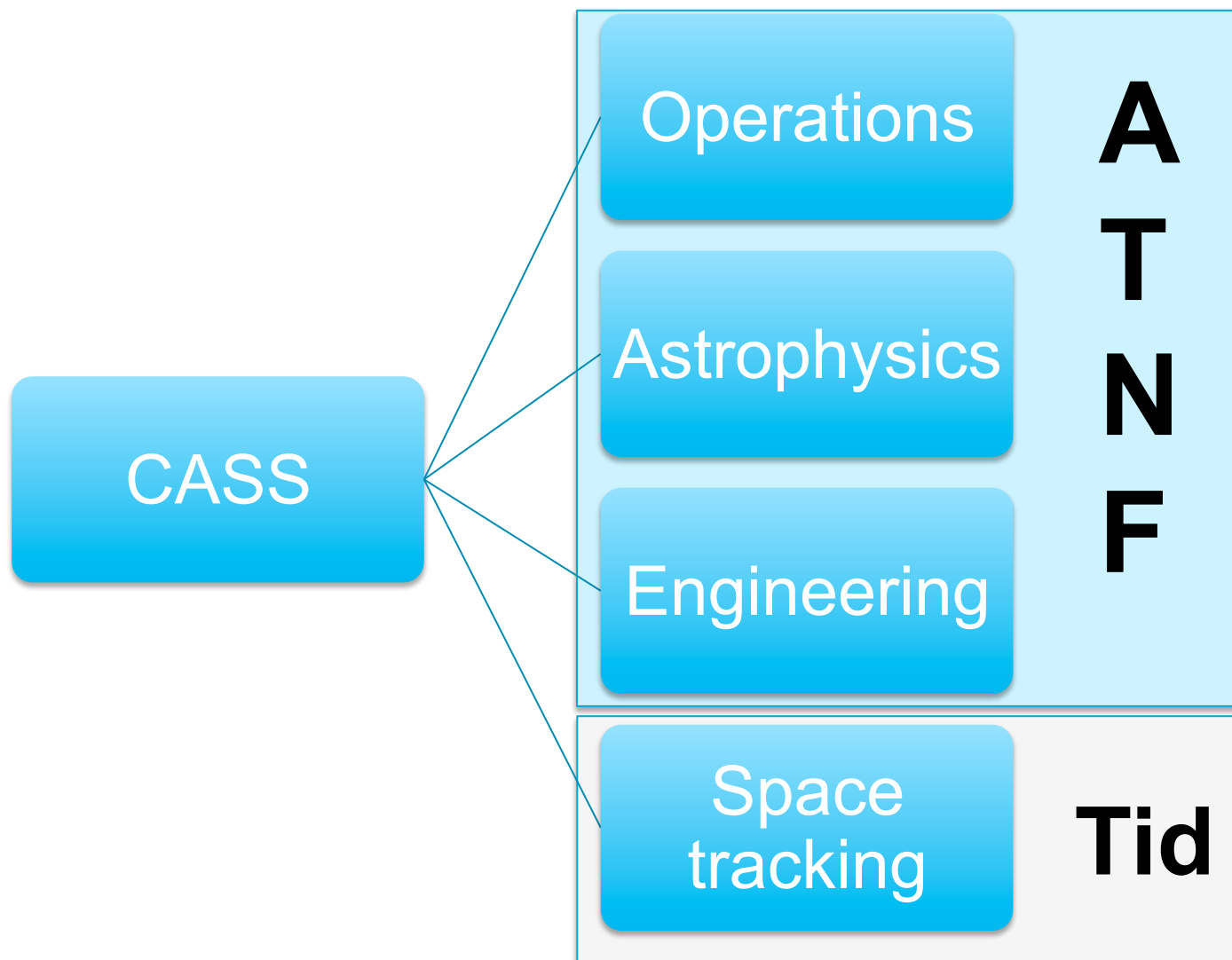
- 10 ASKAP Survey Science Proposals
- 3 Groups: A, A-, Strategic Priorities
- 363 astronomers, 131 institutions, worldwide spread (33% Aus+NZ, 30% North America, 29% Europe, 9% RoW)



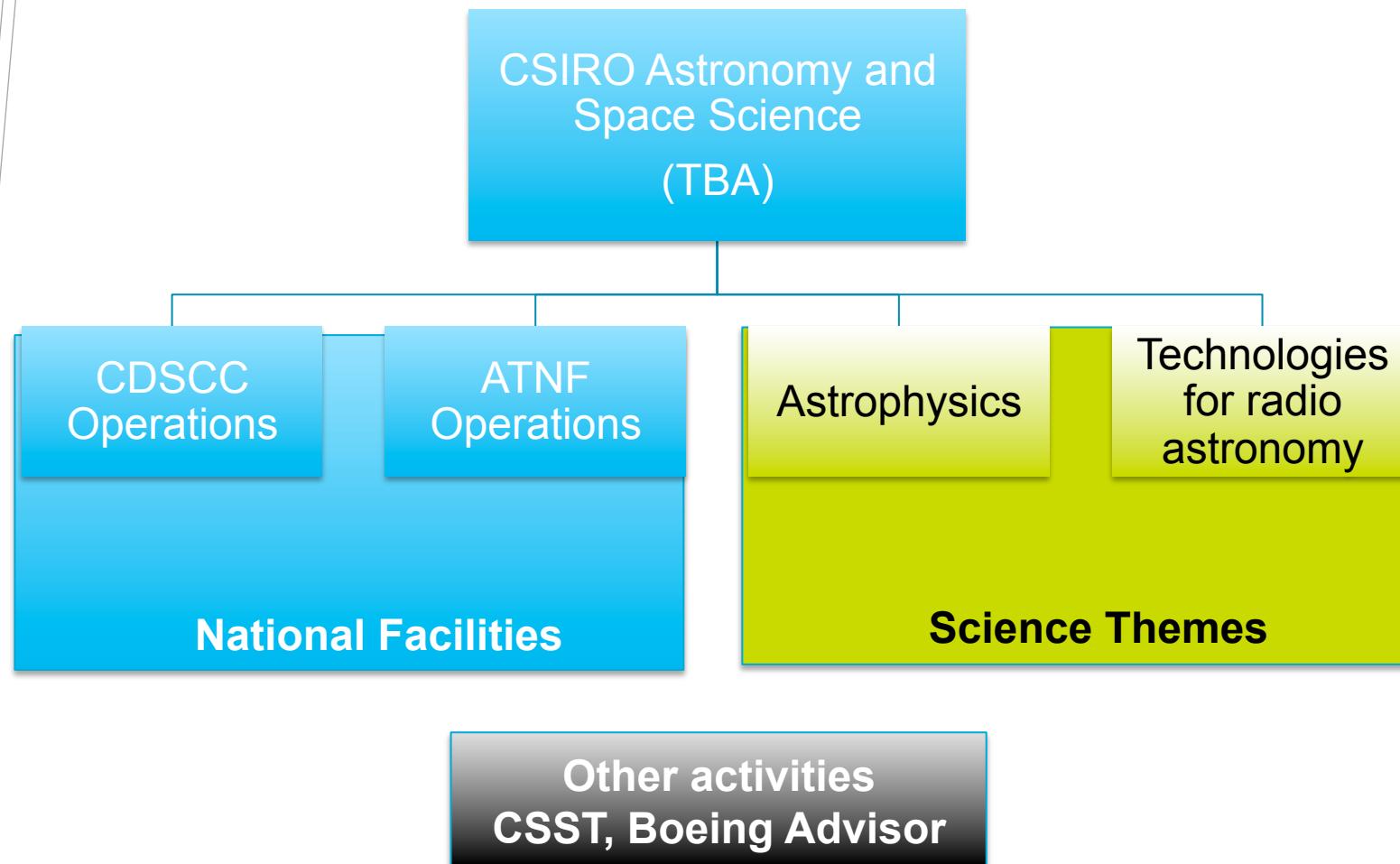
CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science

- Creation of new Business Unit, 1 Dec 2009
- Incorporates ATNF (~180 staff) and CDSCC (Tidbinbilla, ~120 staff from 26 Feb 2010) and some other space activities
- Headed by “Chief CASS” who will also have the role of ATNF Director. Externally advertised.
- ATNF Acting Director becomes acting “Chief CASS”
- ATNF, CDSCC, ASKAP activities to continue as at present
- No changes to staff groupings, staff numbers, or staff activities (themes or deliverables) intended

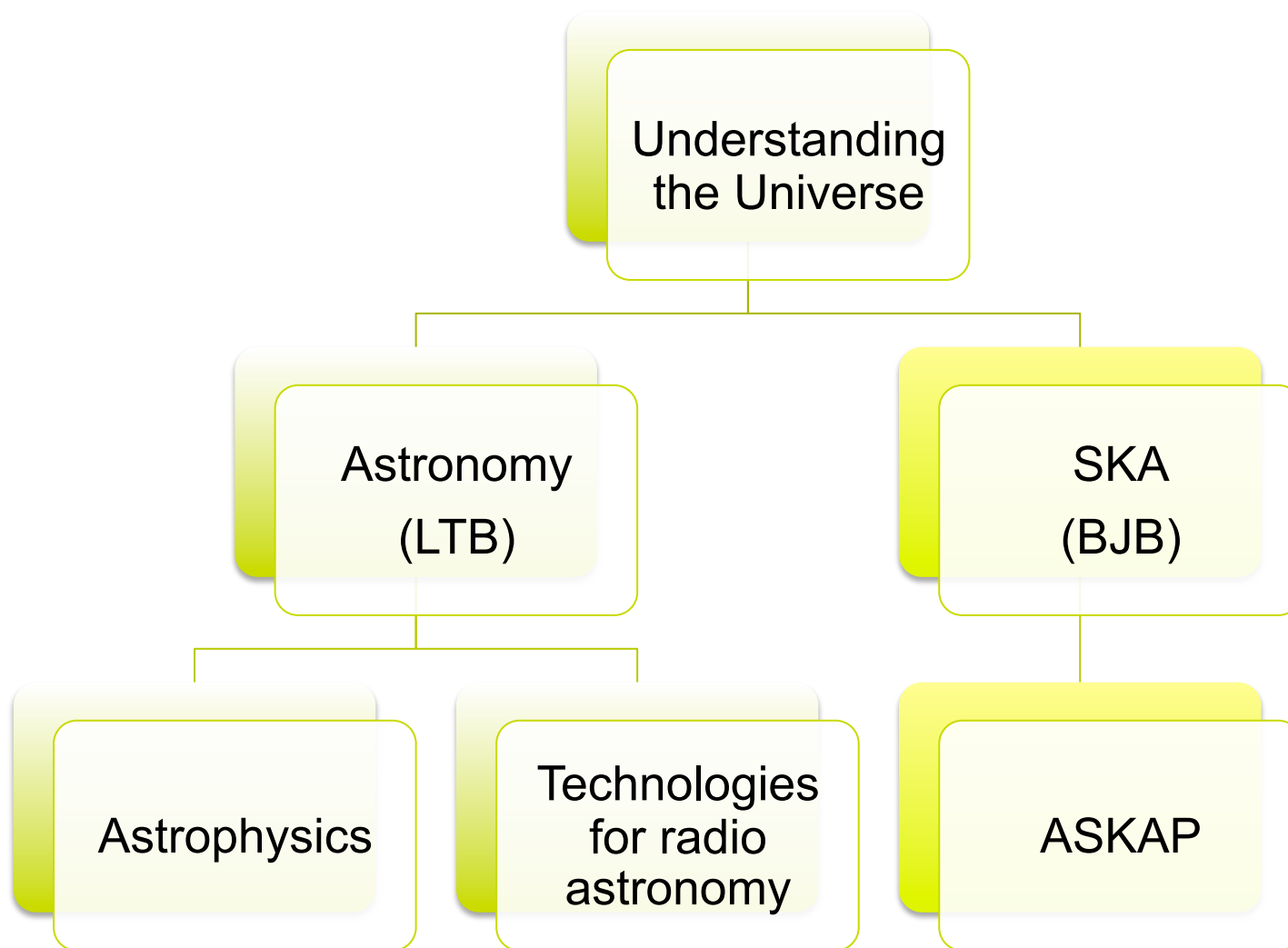
Business unit / Capabilities



Output structure



Outcome domain / Science Portfolios



Facility Operations

- ATNF Operations and CDSCC Operations will have special recognition as National Facilities (rather than being squeezed into a “Science Theme” box)
- Will result in clearer decisions on funding and prioritisation
- No change to the way people work within those activities
- ATNF Operations will be led by Douglas Bock (Assistant Director: Operations) [Acting: Graeme Carrad]
- Space tracking capability, CDSCC and NASA Operations will be led by the CDSCC Director, Miriam Baltuck

Direct operation of Tidbinbilla by CSIRO

- CSIRO manages Tid, on behalf of the Australian Government, for NASA.
- NASA pay the full costs of operation.
- CSIRO employs Dr Miriam Baltuck, CDSCC Director, and a small team.
- A private company, Raytheon, employs the other staff and operates Tidbinbilla for CSIRO
- When the current contract expires on 26 February 2010, CSIRO will take on all CDSCC operations.
- All staff currently employed by Raytheon to operate Tidbinbilla will be offered positions with CSIRO.
- This process is already well underway, with CSIRO and Raytheon working together to effect an orderly transition.

The strategic reasons for the decision

- Further demonstration of CSIRO's natural role as managers of Australia's significant science and technology facilities.
- Further enhance the international standing of CSIRO as a responsible manager of international facilities such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA).
- Enhance synergies across CDSCC and CSIRO's activities in space science including radioastronomy and scientific outreach and education.
- Provide future opportunities for CSIRO to participate in the emerging Australian space domain.

Why create CASS?

- Astronomy and Space Science identified together as priorities for Australia (2009 Budget “Super Science”, Cutler review...)
- National Facilities identified as a core activity for CSIRO
- Opportunities (long term) for synergies between space tracking (CDSCC) and radio astronomy (ATNF)
- Opportunity to reinforce CSIRO’s ability to operate large (inter)National facilities CDSCC and ATNF as part of positioning CSIRO to have a role in operating SKA
- Part of the push to consolidate within CSIRO into larger business units to reduce overheads and maintain science investment levels

Key current issues for ATUC

- User perspective on the ordering of the delivery of CABB zoom modes (Graeme Carrad)
- Comment on proposals for Parkes receiver rationalisation (Erik Lensson)
- Input on priorities for support of major surveys, particularly with Mopra (Phil Edwards)