

November 2006

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## **NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ASTRONOMY WORK PLAN**

### 1. Aims of the NCA.

- Liaise with the International astronomical Union (IAU) through its President, Executive and Commissions, and promote active Australian involvement in the IAU at all levels
- Propose and encourage activities in Australia that will enhance the status of the Astronomy and Astrophysics discipline in collaboration with the Astronomical Society of Australia, and other professional and regional societies
- Promote and encourage Australian participation in a range of relevant international forums such as OECD Global Science Forums
- Act as a peak body, by for example, undertaking decadal reviews of Astronomy and Astrophysics, and mid-term reviews as required.
- Promulgate the national value and benefits of the astronomical sciences

### 2. Strategies to allow these aims to be achieved.

- Facilitate broad-based community-wide strategic planning initiatives
- Support the planning of Australian involvement in current and future large-scale Astronomical facilities
- Involve Australian astronomers in IAU commissions and its executive
- Liaise, as appropriate with the Academy's Executive Committee on astronomy-related matters

### 3. Plan of work/activities in 2006 which will achieve the aims:

#### a. National

- Encourage and facilitate development of implementation white papers based on Decadal Plan strategies
- Investigate and propose potential new organisational structures for Australian astronomy that may enable Australia to engage optimally with the next generation of international astronomical facilities.
- Continue planning specific future facilities with current subcommittees: Australian Square Kilometre Array Consortium committee and the Extremely Large Telescope Working Group
- Liaise with the Academy to identify appropriate astronomy resources as part of the Academy's science education activities.

#### b. International Scientific Union

- Update Australian membership of the IAU and ensure appropriate Australian representation at IAU committees during the IAU General Assembly in Prague

### Budget - outline of financial support required to achieve this Plan of Work.

**BUDGET:** (to cover one meeting of the NCA in Canberra and one in Epping, Sydney).

Teleconference charges	\$ 200
Airfare costs for Canberra meeting	\$2100
Catering for Canberra meeting	\$ 200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2500</b>