



# Response to ATUC's recommendations

George Hobbs | 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## Director's Response to ATUC Report – April 2024

We thank ATUC for their report, which is available from [this link](#). We note that the original report was divided into explicit recommended actions and requested updates. We divide this report into (1) a discussion around which topics will be brought up during the ATUC meeting and (2) written responses to the recommendations.

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### Input into ATUC Meeting

In the responses below we include the following remarks about the upcoming ATUC meeting

- 3.1: Updates on the ASKAP Key Capabilities project will be presented at the next meeting
- 3.6: We will provide a verbal update relating to Pawsey and Setonix at the ATUC meeting.
- 4.2: We will report back to ATUC in the October meeting results from our commissioning of the cryoPAF pulsar search pipeline.
- 7.6: Details on the UWMH project itself, the properties of the receivers and the status and the timeline for the project will be presented at the next ATUC meeting.
- 8.2: We will demonstrate some of the functionalities of the new website during the ATUC meeting.
- 9.2: We will include student and ECR talks, perspectives and contributions in the ATUC meeting.

### Operations

3.1 (ATUC-22)	
Owner	John Reynolds
Type	Action
Summary	ATNF to implement necessary improvements to the ASKAP's software workflow, including those previously recommended by ASKAP spectral line survey teams such as peeling and the RACS sky model.
Request	This is a priority and currently in progress. A report will be given at the next ATUC meeting, but we have now formally started the "Key Capabilities Project" (also known as the Data Assurance Project). This is being led by Aidan Hotan and has the big picture goals, which includes both the RACS sky model and peeling:
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement VAST's commensal fast-imaging mode</li></ul>



# The report

- Report from April 2024
- Sections:
  - Operations
  - Data and archiving
  - Policies
  - Training and user support
  - ATNF and future priorities
  - Community engagement
  - Student experience
- Note: **previous report had an appendix with a larger number of smaller recommendations and requests**
- Recommendations divided into “action recommended” and “update requested”

## ATUC Report – April 2024

\* = Action recommended by ATUC  
non-\* = Update requested by ATUC

### 1. ATUC members in attendance

Stas Shebala (Chair), Vanessa Moss (Executive Officer), Craig Anderson, Hayley Bignall, Adelle Goodwin, Marcus Lower, Yik Xi (Jackie) Ma, Rami Mandow (student member), Gavin Rowell, Manaseva Saraf (student member), Ivy Wong.

### 2. Commendations for S&A

- The Royal Astronomical Society Jackson-Gwilt Medal to Keith Bannister and Ryan Shannon for the work on FRB search using ASKAP.
- First BIGCAT data on Optus satellite and maser, including first demonstration of observations at 1 GHz
- Regular FRB detections and discoveries of new Galactic sources such as pulsars, RRATs, and ULFs with CRACO
- Contribution to successful deployment of SKA-Low antennas
- Data now taken for all ASKAP Science Surveys by end of 2023

### 3. Operations

#### 3.1. ASKAP

##### ASKAP workflows

A large fraction of the community continues to be heavily invested in the success of ASKAP, ATNF's youngest flagship facility. Since the start of the full survey period in Q4 2022, continuum surveys have made good progress while some spectral line surveys have experienced significant delays. Issues experienced by WALLABY and other spectral line surveys arise largely from the processing workflow in combination with the challenges faced by the commissioning of Setonix at Pawsey. Community feedback indicates that several anticipated early science discoveries are now being made by ASKAP's contemporaries (such as MeerKAT), taking opportunities away from ASKAP users who have already invested their time and funding resources.

In the medium term, the current backlog in observations and processing can be alleviated by an upgraded ASKAPsoft workflow which will reduce the number of rejected observations. In the short term investigation of alternative interim processing avenues and/or decoupling observations from processing may be helpful to spectral line surveys such as WALLABY, which is important to the ASKAP user community.



# Operations and data and archiving

- Details on these recommendations discussed in presentations from Matthew Whiting + Minh Huynh.
- *“We expect AKVET’s next meeting to be held before the ATUC meeting.”*
  - Next AKVET meeting scheduled in **November 2024**, organised by John Reynolds
- Ticketing systems:
  - We continue to investigate having a generic Jira system (like the Murriyang system) which will accept email submissions and send email responses back.
    - Would this be a major improvement on the current form system?



# Policies, training and user support

- **GSP time allocation:** discussion session will be led by John Reynolds at 14:20 this afternoon
- ASKAP user policy has been refreshed:  
<https://www.atnf.csiro.au/projects/askap/policy.html>

## 4. Guest Science Projects

Guest Science Projects are observational programs that require <1500 hours of observing time to complete and that utilise ASKAP's capabilities to enable scientifically interesting experiments. Guest Science Projects can include Non A-priori Assignable proposals (NAPA) but do not include override requests such as Target of Opportunity (Section 5).

- 4.1 It was originally envisaged that for the first five years of routine science operations with ASKAP up to 25% of observing time would be available for Guest Science Projects. However, owing to the large subscription factor (>1.7) of the combined SSP surveys themselves, the 2022 RASSP review recommended that this figure be reduced to between 5% and 10% of available time.
- 4.2 Proposals for Guest Science Projects will be subject to competitive peer-review by the Time Assignment Committee (TAC).



## ATNF and future priorities and community engagement

### Future priorities:

- <https://www.atnf.csiro.au/resources/ATNF-to-2035.pdf>
  - Overview
  - CSIRO's Australia Telescope National Facility
    - Current capabilities
  - The role of the ATNF in the SKA era
    - A pathway towards new capabilities for Australian astronomers in the SKA-era
  - CSIRO's vision for the upcoming role of the ATNF

(will evolve over time with new ATNF leadership structure, ATUC input, the Decadal Plan, etc.)



Australia's National  
Science Agency

## The Australia Telescope National Facility from now to 2035

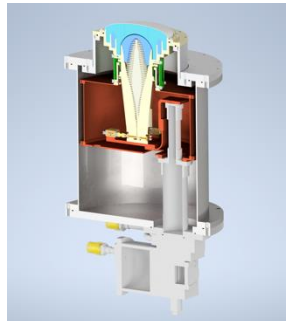
August 2024



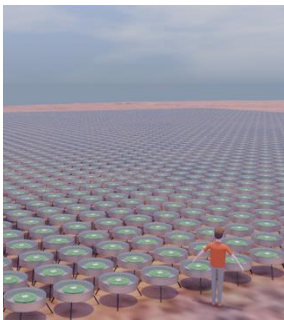


# ATNF and **future priorities** and community engagement

## Upcoming, future and testbed projects:



cryoPAF,  
BIGCAT,  
UWM-H,  
ASKAP key  
capabilities



CASATTA +  
all-sky  
monitors,  
LAMBDA,  
LunarPAF,  
Ginan,  
ASKAP PAF  
upgrade



# ATNF and future priorities and **community engagement**

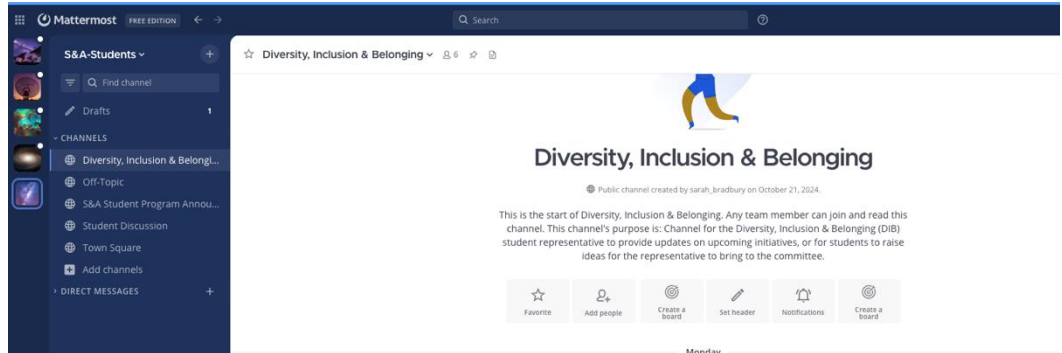
- A reminder of the upcoming VLBI meeting (here: Perth/online, on Wednesday)
  - Talks on high-, mid- and low-frequency VLBI in the Southern Hemisphere
  - Talks explicitly relating to SKA-Low and SKA-Mid + ATNF facilities
  - Primarily around science, not technology.
- A few highlights from the program of likely interest to ATUC:
  - 11:00-11:15 Simon Ellingsen: An agile and flexible southern VLBI capability
  - 11:30-11:45 Jane Kaczmarek: The science cases for broadband VLBI science
  - 13:15-13:30 Jack Radcliffe: An overview of VLBI with the SKAO
  - 14:30-14:45 Emily Kerrison: The FLASH survey and a potential Murriyang-ASKAP baseline



# Student experience

- Student forum held 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024:
  - **Agenda included**
    - everyone introduced themselves, where they are based and what they are working on.
    - Discussion around the forum purpose
    - Update on student administration
    - Student representatives on committees such as ATUC and DIB
    - Student support of the ATNF
    - Planning for a student symposium (likely early 2025)

New Mattermost  
page for co-  
supervised students





## Comments on the process and report

- Iterative process between us and ATUC worked well, but better if everything moved a few weeks earlier – likely possible this time around
  - ... but very unlikely to get most presentations ready for ATUC prior to the meeting
- The number of recommendations was probably just-about-doable => let's not increase the number of recommendations and possibly decrease slightly
  - What about all the small recommendations (from previous appendix)?
  - More science days? VLBI-day coming up. What would ATUC like to see in terms of science days linked to future meetings?

# Thank you

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