ATNF Director's response
ATUC meeting 15 and 16 June 2005

ATUC Comments	Director's response	Traffic light
2a. Welcome to new members. Thanks to retiring members. (raised by ATUC) *ATNF response optional*		
2b. Seconds for members unable to attend ATUC meetings (raised by ATUC) *Will the new ATUC membership invitation letters emphasise that a certain level of commitment is required from ATUC members with regard to meeting attendance?*	The invitation letter includes the following sentence: "Both the Steering Committee and the Director highly value the input from the Users' Committee and your contribution, as an active member of the Committee and as an active user of the ATNF instruments, will be most valuable." It is difficult to see what more could be said.	Green
2c. ATUC vice-chair (raised by ATUC) *1. Does the Director support the appointment of an ATUC Vice-Chair?* *2. If so, does the Director have any advice on what the appointment procedure should be?*	1. Yes, in principle. Insofar as the role of Vice-Chair will help ATUC carry out their business defined by the terms of reference as efficiently and effectively as possible, this is ATUC's decision to make. However, if the role of Vice-Chair also includes an element of succession planning, then this decision needs to be made by the Steering Committee. 2. On the basis that the ATSC supported the creation of a Vice Chair position with an element of succession planning, it would probably not be appropriate for ATUC to nominate candidates to this position. There is both an issue of perception and expectation management to consider here. In appointing a Vice-Chair under these circumstances, it is likely that the ATSC would, in any event, consult with the ATUC through its chair.	Green
2d. A user noted that the ATUC online feedback form has the wrong title (raised by user) *ATNF response optional*		
2e. Change ATUC term dates on web page (raised by ATUC) *ATNF response optional*		
2f. ATUC overseas member (raised by ATUC) *Would the Director support moving the overseas member to the June meeting, from 2006?*	Within any given financial year, ATUC may wish to invite the overseas participant to whichever meeting best suits their needs.	Green
2g. Dates for next meeting (raised by ATUC) *Are the nominated dates (7 and 8 December) suitable for the ATNF?*	The preferred dates are 1,2 December . These accommodate both the Low Frequency Radio Astronomy meeting in Hobart (7-10 December) and the ATNF Astrofest (proposed for 14 December).	

3a. Motion (raised by ATUC) *ATNF response optional*		
4a. Suggest changing item 9a in response from red to green as ATUC and the Director are in agreement over the future of the SETI receiver. (raised by ATUC) *Does the Director agree that this should be green?*	Yes	Green
4b. Item 6a from response. ATUC will revisit the new DA support scheme at the December 2005 meeting to ensure that users are happy with how it is working. (raised by ATUC) *ATNF response optional*		
4c. Item 7a from response. The future developments page still appears on the web site: http://www.atnf.csiro.au/technology/future/overall_plan.html. **These pages should be removed (noted in the December 2004 ATUC report), as the new project management system has made them obsolete. Also there is no link to the project management page provided from non-internal pages. (raised by ATUC)** *Will the future developments page be removed and a link to the project management page provided from the public pages?*	The future developments page will be removed and a new page has been designed, which includes details such as ID, Project Name, Project Leader, Concept and Plan. This page will be implemented during August, once outstanding issues are resolved, such as the level of financial data provided on externally funded contracts."	Green
4d. Item 4d from response. Email to ATCA PIs happened quite quickly, Parkes somewhat slower. However VLBI and Tid letters were not sent until PIs started asking about them. (raised by ATUC) *ATNF response optional*		
4e. Acceptance of Director's response to ATUC report of December 2004 (raised by ATUC)		
5a. ATUC congratulate the ATNF on bringing the ATCA 3mm system into its first full winter season and wish it great early success. ATUC note that the new web tools for the 3mm system are very useful. **5b. ATUC congratulate the team that has developed the linux version of CAOBS for the ATCA. The new software appears to work very well and will be a welcome improvement to the ATCA observing software when in full use.** **5c. ATUC were very impressed by the scope and success of the Huygens VLBI observations and results, as part of a large international effort. Congratulations go to the ATNF Huygens team.**		

5d. ATUC were also impressed by the equipment deployed for the RFI testing measurements at Mileura, for the SKA site proposal process. The ATNF SKA team and the team responsible for putting together the testing hardware are to be commended. **5e.** Congratulations to Dr David McConnell on his appointment to the position of Assistant Director of Operations. **5f.** Congratulations to Dr Lewis Ball on his appointment to the position of Deputy Director **5g.** Congratulations to the Parkes staff for bringing the historical observation database online. **5h.** Congratulations of Prof. Ron Ekers on being elected a member of the Royal Society. *ATNF response optional*		
6a. Cancellation of the 2005 ATNF Synthesis Imaging workshop (raised by users/ATUC) 1. *If cancelled in October 2005, when will the next ATNF synthesis imaging workshop be held?* 2. *Will subsequent workshops continue to be held at the rate of once every two years?* 3. *Will subsequent workshops continue to be held at the ATCA?* 4. *Will the budget and scope of subsequent workshops remain the same as for previous workshops?*	1. The ATNF will attempt to budget for a Synthesis Workshop October 2006. 2. The ATNF understands that a workshop period of three years disadvantages a significant number of students and that two year intervals are ideal. The ATNF will attempt to accommodate two yearly workshops within its budget. 3. It is currently the intention to continue holding workshops at the ATCA, giving the opportunity for "hands-on". 4. The scope of the workshop will remain similar. The budget will be determined accordingly.	Yellow
7a. ToO criteria (raised by ATNF) *Will the Assistant Director undertake a review of ToO proposal assessment criteria?*	The Assistant Director Operations is now reviewing ToO selection criteria. Revised criteria will be presented to ATUC at its next meeting.	Green
7b. Increase in lodge revenue. (raised by ATNF) 1. *What is the expected new cost structure for the ATNF lodges?* 2. *Will ATNF students continue to stay at the lodges for free and other students half price?* 3. *Are there any other associated cost increases for observers?*	1. The details of new ATNF Lodge charges are advertised on the web at http://atnf.csiro.au/visit under the links to individual sites. A summary of the new charges is as follows: Narrabri: AU$80/day full board Parkes: AU$77/day full board Mopra: AU$36/day bed and kitchen facilities (no increase) Marsfield:AU$60/day bed, breakfast supplies and kitchen facilities 2. Student discounts of 50% (100% for ATNF students) will remain. 3. Visitors travelling by air to Narrabri will be expected to pay for their taxi transport to and from the Narrabri airport.	Yellow

7c. Comments on SKA roadmap. (raised by ATNF) *1. Is there a contingency plan in the case that before 2010 it is clear that the SKA will not be built in the timeframe expected?* *2. Does the fact that the Mopra budget goes to zero mean that Mopra will be closed in 2009?*	The detailed implementation of the overall Decadal planning strategies must indeed include contingency for unforeseen events and the ability to adapt to match circumstances and take advantage of opportunities; including any delays to SKA time scales. However an important element of the strategy includes the reprioritisation of existing operational resources into new infrastructure. For the plan to have any credibility, this is non-negotiable. Currently one possible implementation of the strategy has all operational resources withdrawn from Mopra by 2009/10. But it is premature to say whether that will be the route taken. Moreover, even it were to be the case, it is also too early to say whether the removal of all ATNF operational resources from Mopra will also inevitably lead to its closure; given that the facility that will be run largely in an automatic fashion at that stage.	Green
8a. Better L-band LNAs for ATCA (raised by user) *1. When will the scope of the broadband front-end be finalised?* *2. What is the timeline for the frontend upgrade?* *3. Can the L-band LNAs be replaced before completion of the CABB upgrade, to give improved L-band sensitivity?*	1. This project is currently in the planning stage. A source of funding will need to be identified before a detailed project plan can be developed. The scope of the project is contained in the Concept Document on the ATNF Project Management web page. 2. The timeline will be determined when the detailed project plan is developed. 3. Replacing the LNAs alone is unlikely to provide a significant improvement, because of the loss in the diplexers in front of the LNAs. To get a significant improvement we would need to remove the diplexers and design and build wideband LNAs. These are the main components of the ATCA broadband frontend project.	Yellow
8b. ATCA hybrid arrays in the summer (raised by user) ATNF might consider offering H75 for next summer if demand (via wild-card array requests) is high for this summer. *ATNF response optional*		
8c. Suggestions to help optimise the DA and remote observing schemes, to maximise interaction between astronomers and observatory staff, and to assist in encouraging OS observers to visit Australia. (raised by ATNF). *1. Will the ATNF reply to DA requests made by non-ATNF astronomers as quickly as possible? ATUC note that this should now be the responsibility of the Assistant Director of Operations.*	1. The Assistant Director Operations is now responsible for approval of non-ATNF DA requests. Every effort will be made to respond promptly. 2. It is the intention of the ATNF to return to the two year period of Synthesis Imaging workshops.	Green

2. Will the ATNF return to a two year schedule of Synthesis Imaging Workshops held at the ATCA?		
8d. ATUC is invited to comment on further measures to help maximise the science coming from the 3mm systems (raised by ATNF) *ATNF response optional*		
8e. What is bad weather? ATUC invited to provide guidelines (raised by ATNF) *1. With the above criteria as a guide, is the final decision to stop observing the responsibility of the observer or the Observatory OIC?*	As the ATNF has to justify responsible use of telescope time, the "bad weather" decision rests with the OIC or operations staff. To date, the decision generally has been pretty obvious. In any case the decision will be made after full consultation with affected observers.	Green
9a. 20cm MB off March 2006, 3-4 month turnaround. Feedback from ATUC? (raised by ATNF) *ATNF response optional*		
9b. 2nd IF chain from Jodrell for methanol multibeam (raised by user) *1. When will the 2nd IF chain for the methanol multibeam receiver arrive at ATNF?* *2. When will the 2nd IF chain for the methanol multibeam receiver be installed? Could the second chain be installed for the OCT2005 term if it arrives at ATNF by October 2005?*	1. We have not yet been informed of the expected arrival date of the 2nd IF chain. 2. If the 2nd IF chain components do arrive in time, ATNF will take all reasonable steps to have it installed in October 2005, contingent on this not delaying the installation and commissioning of the receiver and 1st IF chain.	Yellow
9c. ASAP feedback from users (raised by ATNF) *ATNF response optional*	ASAP testing was initially carried out with an internal ATNF release at Parkes, Mopra, Tidbinbilla and Marsfield. About eight internal and external users provided feedback and generated bug reports and feature requests, many of which have been resolved and/or implemented. A heavily promoted general release should occur late in 2005, though more functionality will be added after that time. However, for testers who wished to carry on testing ASAP, the source code was made available (and is still available to anyone via the ASAP web page and who have an AIPS++ installation). A useful binary installation, including an OS/X release, will also be available after packaging issues have been resolved, although we may not be able to cover the full range of linux compiler/python/libc/c++ ABI combinations. We are pleased to note that the ALMA consortium has expressed interest in adopting ASAP as its single-dish software package. If it does, there will be significant modifications for their purposes, some of which we should benefit from.	Green

9d. Parkes 12mm upgrade. *ATNF response optional.*		
10a. High level web link to Tidbinbilla facilities (raised by ATUC) 1. *Will the ATNF add a high level link to the ATNF Tidbinbilla web pages from the ATNF home page?*	A link to the ATNF Tidbinbilla pages now exists from the ATNF home page.	Green
10b. User interest in DSS34 X-Ka system (raised by ATNF) 1. *Would the DSS34 7mm system be added to the ATNF call for proposals, subject to an assessment by the Tidbinbilla support staff?*	At this stage we don't know how much DSS34 time we'll get. It's in high demand for the next six months due to the unavailability of the 70m, and any time that is available will be used for testing of observing software. So until we know how much time we can offer and get some observing experience we don't know what resources are needed to support it and so can't offer it to users yet. We will have a better idea by the next ATUC meeting and Jim Lovell will to report back to AT management and ATUC on some options for supporting observations on the 34m.	
11a. Move of LBA archive to disk (raised by ATNF) *ATNF response optional*	Work on LBA data archiving to disk has started. All new correlations are archived on disk and old data would be copied progressively.	
11b. VLBI proposals involving Tidbinbilla (raised by ATUC) 1. *Will the ATNF make VLBI proposals that request the use of Tidbinbilla submitted for the 2005APR term active for 18 months rather than 12 months, to recognise the impact of the Tidbinbilla shutdown?*	The recent meeting of the TAC determined that VLBI proposals for the 2005APR semester that involve Tidbinbilla will remain active for 18 months because of the maintenance period.	Green
12a. Delays in proposal rounds (raised by a user). *ATNF response optional*		
12b. Results of six-month term survey results (raised by ATUC). *ATNF response optional*		
12c. Number of Australian university PIs for ATNF still appears to be an issue (raised by user). 1. *Will the ATNF pass on to ATUC the number of proposals submitted and accepted where the PI is from a non-ATNF Australian institution?* 2. *Will the ATNF pass on to ATUC the total number of hours requested and approved as part of proposals where the PI is from a non-ATNF Australian institution?*	1. The ATNF will inform ATUC of the number of proposals submitted with non-ATNF Australian PIs. 2. The ATNF will inform ATUC of the total number of hours requested in proposals submitted by non-ATNF Australian PIs.	Green
12d. How are VLBI publications counted in publication statistics? (raised by ATUC)	The 2005 Annual Report will include information on facilities included for VLBI publications (at least for 2005 papers).	Green

1. *Will the ATNF take account of VLBI publications within the categories of individual antennas? This would give a fairer indication of the publication output of Mopra, for example.*		
13a. "Pink cable" problems (raised by users). 1. *Can some current restrictions on outgoing traffic be lifted? (specifically with regard to POP access)?* 2. *Is printing from pink cables supported, and if so, who provides assistance?*	1. There are no restrictions. Outgoing mail traffic is possible using POP, IMAP or SMTP on the pink cables. It is only disabled on the wireless network whose IP addresses are inside CSIRO trusted address space. For details, see: http://www.atnf.csiro.au/internal/computing/help/getting-started/visitor-network-faq.html#FAQ-email (this web site is available, without a password, from inside the ATNF or, with a password, from external sites). 2. We have implemented pink cable printer access for windows laptops, but success with unix depends on the quality of the unix platform and which Observatory you are at (printing is handled differently at the different ATNF sites). We will continue to harmonise the print infrastructure and, as we complete our acceptance tests for new laptop platforms, this will be documented through the website. In the meantime, help is available through the local IT support. See also: http://www.atnf.csiro.au/internal/computing/help/getting-started/	Green
13b. MIRIAD maintenance and support (raised by user) 1. *Will ATNF develop and present a plan for the medium to long term development of MIRIAD to meet the challenges of the upgraded ATCA?*	We plan to increase our support for Miriad, and the details will be presented in the response to the recent software review. We also plan increased coordination with CARMA who plan to use Miriad for their data reduction.)	Green
13c. What services do users require from the Scientific Computing Group, given that 10% of the group resources may be allocated to these activities? (raised by ATNF) 1. *Will ATNF consider raising the percentage of Scientific Group Resources for general IT support from 10% to 20%, to recognise the historical level that this activity requires?* 2. *Will the ATNF consider becoming a 100% linux site by gradually eliminating the Solaris machines on site and replacing them with PCs running a single version of linux?* 3. *Will the Scientific Computing Group make more effort to pass routine IT maintenance tasks to CSIRO IT?*	1. The level of SCG IT support, software production and strategic research is being considered in the response to the recent software review. 2. It's doubtful the ATNF will ever be 100% of any platform, but the Solaris machines, which have historically been much cheaper to operate than linux machines, will probably be phased out given their poor performance in comparison. 3. The SCG always tries to pass routine IT tasks to CSIRO IT but, in the current model, they often can't because of the urgency of some user requests. Many user requests are also far from 'routine'; CSIRO IT has not yet defined its service level. Also, it appears CSIRO IT now plan to move off-site entirely, which might make coordination even more challenging. We will endeavour to keep ATUC informed.	Yellow

13d. What level of visitor support is appropriate for the Marsfield site? (raised by ATNF) *1. Will ATNF continue to support laptop connections for visitors at Marsfield?* *2. Will ATNF continue to support permanent workstations for visitors at Marsfield?*	1. Laptop connections will continue to be supported. The tightening of access is being driven by CSIRO and the Commonwealth. We are making every effort to simplify access while maintaining the network separation that we are now required to. 2. Thank you for the clear response to the question. We will continue to provide visitor workstations and will proceed with their upgrade.	Green
17a. ALMA discussion forum and 115 GHz at the ATCA (raised by user) *1. Following the ALMA forum, will ATNF consider upgrading the ATCA to 115 GHz in the near future?*	1. In a recent report, ATUC rated the ATCA 115GHz upgrade project lower than the ATCA 7mm and 20/11, 6/3 cm frontend upgrade projects. If these two projects proceed - they are both in the planning stage at the moment - it is unlikely that resources will be available over the next two years to undertake the ATCA 115GHz upgrade.	Red