

**ATNF Director's Response  
ATUC meeting 7 and 8 May 2008**

ATUC Recommendations	Director's Response	Traffic light
<b>New actions on ATUC:</b>		
1. In recognition of the new ATNF operational structure, ATUC request clarification about who it would be most effective to report to in future. While we are happy to have several members of the AT leadership team attend the final part of our meeting, it is also important for us to have a single point of contact within the new structure.	Done. Lewis Ball is now the ATNF contact.	Green
2. ATUC asks that the "commendations and successes" noted in its reports be passed on individually to the people concerned.	This was done verbally by the Deputy Director, in person where possible, within days of the draft report being received from ATUC	Green
3. ATUC welcomes the initiative to automate the scheduling of all ATNF telescopes.	Noted	Green
4. ATUC notes the success of the recent Mopra training day. Several issues raised in the last ATUC report (points 5, 8 & 9) were addressed at that meeting. ATUC will review these in six months time to check on progress.	Noted	Green
5. ATUC asks that resources be allocated to developing the ASAP software in line with the user needs identified at the Mopra training day.	See answer to item 25 (Dave McC)	Green
6. On page 4, paragraph 8 of the ATNF Future Operations Document, ATUC requests clarification on what is meant by "major instrumentation". Does this preclude future LIEF grants for new ATNF instrumentation? Within the new ATNF management structure, who is responsible for coordinating LIEF grants?	<p>This refers to instrumentation projects that require significant resources. As a rule of thumb, any project costed at \$100K or more of ATNF funds would fall into this category. This does not preclude future LIEF grants once the ATNF has developed a comprehensive plan for the implementation of the Future Operations structure, but no major new projects will be initiated in the short term.</p> <p>The key ATNF contact for LIEF grants is Graeme Carrad. Anyone contemplating a possible LIEF proposal related to an ATNF instrument is encouraged to contact Graeme or Lewis very early in the process.</p>	Green
7. Information about the correct form of acknowledgement of data obtained using ATNF telescopes is still too deeply embedded within the ATNF web pages, and remains difficult to find. ATUC suggests the information contained in the OPAL user-guide be moved to a more visible location (i.e. under OPAL page sidebar, as "Publications and Acknowledgements links"). There should also be a link to this information on the ATOA site front page.	A link to this has been placed on the top level Observers page at <a href="http://www.atnf.csiro.au/observers/">http://www.atnf.csiro.au/observers/</a> as this page should be seen by almost all users. The link is also on the top research page <a href="http://www.atnf.csiro.au/research/">http://www.atnf.csiro.au/research/</a> and the information is given as before in the OPAL Users Guide	Green
8. ATUC is encouraged by the progress outlined in the WVR report, but the required level of resources and the continuing lack of an identified project scientist leaves us concerned about whether the mid-2009 timeline can be achieved. ATUC suggests that knowledgeable scientists from other institutions involved with WVRs could be asked to help	<p>Phil Edwards is now Project Scientist. The new ATCA Systems Scientist is likely to take on this role once appointed (expected Q4 2008). Balt Indermuehle has recently travelled to IRAM and had fruitful exchanges with their WVR science and engineering staff (Michael Bremer predominantly) and will continue to expand his experience. He intends to attend a workshop in September in Germany that is centred on developments in the field.</p> <p>The latest project status report indicates that the current level of resourcing will have the project completed as estimated.</p>	Green
9. ATUC acknowledges the delay with installing the full CABB system. We note that this should have minimal impact on observers in the current semester, who will be using the single-frequency interim CABB system. The next call for proposals should include a statement outlining the	Regular reporting is in place to ensure up-to-date information is available to the head of Science Operations, Phil Edwards and Assistant Director for Operations, Dave McConnell. They relay information to affected observers and attempt to lessen the impact on their plans where possible. This communication	Green

shutdown expected.	chain has been used to alert users of the recent delay in the interim system. A CABB web page is maintained and updated with new information as it comes to hand. ATNF included a statement outlining the latest information on the shutdown in the 'Call for Proposals' that was issued in May.	
10. ATUC were pleased to hear the announcement of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Imaging Synthesis School in September. We recommend that this be announced via the ASA and ATCA-based email exploders as soon as possible.	The Synthesis Imaging School was announced on the ASA exploder on May 10th. It was added to the "What's On" listing on the main ATNF web page shortly afterwards, and links to the Imaging School web page have been added. Registration opened in the last week of July when another announcement was made on the ASA exploder.	Green
11. ATUC request that ATNF also consider holding a single-dish school at one of the Observatories, similar to the Mopra Induction Course held in 2005. This would fulfil a similar role to the Synthesis School by covering all aspects of observing and data reduction with Parkes, Mopra and other single-dish radiotelescopes.	ATNF welcomes this recommendation which is consistent with early plans to expand the series of technical 'schools' facilitated by the ATNF.	Green
12. ATUC asks that users be informed about delays to the new 13mm receiver. In particular, the status should be made clear in the upcoming call for proposals in the next semester.	ATNF included a statement outlining the latest estimate of receiver availability in the 'Call for Proposals' issued in May. It stated that installation is expected occur this semester and this is still the case.	Green
13. ATUC thanks Shinji Horiuchi for sending a report on Tidbinbilla observations. We were pleased to hear that astronomy observations with the 70-m telescope have restarted after an 18-month gap.	Noted and passed on.	Green
14. ATUC asks that the Tidbinbilla projects status web pages be updated as projects are started and/or completed. We would also like information on who is now the ATNF contact for Tidbinbilla operations.	The Tidbinbilla observing project status pages will be brought up to date before the next ATUC meeting. Negotiations are being held to establish a workable process for keeping this information up to date (see also item 15). The Tidbinbilla web page gives an email address for ATNF contact. This address (tid-support@atnf.csiro.au) is purposely anonymous so that it can be redirected to different ATNF staff when the need arises. At present mail messages sent to that address are received by Dave McConnell, Phil Edwards, and Graham Baines at CDSCC, Tidbinbilla.	Yellow
15. ATUC requests clarification from ATNF on the position of Tidbinbilla in the new operations model.	The new Operations model presently lacks the detail to be definite on the future involvement of Tidbinbilla in the National Facility. The ATNF is still inviting and receiving applications for astronomical (both single dish and VLBI) usage of facilities at Tidbinbilla. ATNF is currently negotiating with CDSCC to ensure continuing support for the next two observing terms while the new Operations model is developed.	Yellow
16. With regard to future science priorities with Parkes, ATCA, Mopra and Tidbinbilla, ATUC is keen to see user input included in any revision of the Future ATNF Operations (FAO) document.	User feedback has already been included in the first publicly released version (v1) following the roadshow (see item 17). A web forum is now open for further feedback which will be considered as part of a revision prior to submission of version 2 to the ATNF Steering Committee in October.	Green
17. ATUC are enthusiastic about the proposed Science Planning Road-show.	This roadshow occurred in the week 21-25 July, led by Robert Braun. The ATNF is very appreciative of the positive and constructive involvement of the user community as demonstrated during these discussions (see also item 16).	Green
18. ATUC understands the following timeline applies to the next stage of future operations planning:  a. End of May: Joint ATNF/ATUC summary of feedback on v1 of FAO b. Mid June: ATNF response to feedback – how will this be communicated to the community? c. Early July(?) Release of three key science papers (v1) Will a presentation at the upcoming	This was broadly correct at the time of the meeting. The current timeline (as at 12 Aug) is:  <b>2006</b> Millimetre Science meeting at Chowder Bay and mm white paper <b>23 Oct 2006</b> VLBI science workshop facilitated by ATUC <b>5 Nov 2007</b> Science with Parkes workshop, Marsfield <b>Dec 2007</b> Future ATNF Operations v1 released <b>Dec 2007</b> Science with ASKAP, Johnston et al., PASA	Green

<p>ASA meeting be made?</p> <p>d. Mid July: Science Roadshow. Will this include an open web forum?</p> <p>e. End July: Version 2 of the FAO document – will there be further consultation before submission to CSIRO?</p> <p>f. End July: Version 2 of the three key science papers. Will there be further consultation before submission?</p> <p>g. September: Submission of FAO document to CSIRO</p> <p>ATUC requests that all documents be made available for comment in early August before final submission.</p>	<p><b>Mar 2008</b> Future ATNF Operations roadshow meetings, U. Sydney, UNSW, Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra, Perth</p> <p><b>Feb 2008</b> Web forum for feedback on Future ATNF Operations v1 opened</p> <p><b>19 March 2008</b> Future ATNF Operations open forum, Marsfield</p> <p><b>11 Jun 2008</b> Science with the ATCA of the Future workshop, Marsfield</p> <p><b>8 Jul 2008</b> ATNF Science Priorities discussion, ASA meeting, Perth</p> <p><b>10 Jul 2008</b> ATNF Science Priorities roadshow meeting with UWA &amp; Curtin, Perth</p> <p><b>21-25 Jul 2008</b> ATNF Science Priorities roadshow meetings, Hobart, Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney</p> <p><b>8 Aug 2008</b> ATNF Science Priorities v1.0 (this document) released for feedback</p> <p><b>end Aug 2008</b> Summary of feedback on Future ATNF Operations v1 released</p> <p><b>end Aug 2008</b> Response to feedback on Future ATNF Operations v1 released</p> <p><b>end Sep 2008</b> Future ATNF Operations v2 released</p> <p><b>16-17 Oct 2008</b> ATSC meeting</p> <p><b>end Oct 2008</b> ATNF Science Priorities v3 released</p> <p><b>Dec 2008</b> Future ATNF Operations v3 released</p> <p>The submission of Future ATNF Operations to the CSIRO Executive Team will be an internal CSIRO document and will not be available publicly. Submission is expected to occur in November 2008.</p>	
<p>19. ATUC members are willing to participate in the preparation of the three key science planning papers. ATUC recommends these be made available before the Science Planning Road-show begins so that informed feedback can be provided.</p>	<p>Continuing input from ATUC members is welcomed, and the ATNF encourages ATUC to facilitate interactions between CSIRO and the astronomy community during this important period of planning and change.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>20. ATUC notes the role of Duty Astronomers requires further clarification in the new Operational Model. Some detailed comments on this issue, and on the related issue of the allocation of Director's time, are given at the end of this report. We welcome a response from ATNF.</p>	<p>ATNF thanks ATUC for its input on the importance of the Duty Astronomer system for postgraduate training. ATNF is committed to maintaining opportunities for student training and expects that the benefits of the DA system will be maintained and probably enhanced in the new operations model.</p> <p>Observing support, on a level similar to that given at present through the Duty Astronomer system, will be provided at the Science Operations Centre in Sydney. The full details of support at this Centre are not yet determined. However, it is intended that the scheme will be extended to cover the Parkes and Mopra radio telescopes as well as the Compact Array. Daytime support staff and/or Duty Astronomers will be contactable on a 24-hour basis.</p> <p>The allocation of Director's time is expected to continue on a similar basis to at present. The scheduling of Director's time will be a responsibility of the Head of Science Operations, although s/he may delegate this.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>21. ATUC share ATNF's concerns on the current workload on TAC members. However, we believe that changes to the current TAC system should only be made after wider discussion with the community, with more than one option offered for consideration (e.g. split ATCA/Mopra proposals, review other observatory models). ATUC are concerned that the specific model presented to us may not in fact</p>	<p>The current TAC model will be used for the 2009APRS semester. Options for possible changes for the future operation of the TAC will be discussed with the ATNF Steering Committee at its meeting n October 2008.</p>	<p>Green</p>

reduce the workload of TAC members.		
22. ATUC also notes that technical assessment of proposals is an essential part of the TAC process. We have heard of at least one recent program in which the observers only discovered after arriving at the telescope that their planned observations were not technically feasible.	<p>This is a rare event. Without more information regarding the specific instance we cannot respond directly.</p> <p>The ATNF has and will continue to assess the technical feasibility of proposals. Until recently this has been the responsibility of the Officers-in-Charge at Parkes and Narrabri who have attended the TAC meetings and been responsible for the telescope schedules. For the coming semester (2008OCTS) this responsibility will remain with Phil Edwards and John Reynolds who will prepare the telescope schedules as before.</p>	Yellow
23. ATUC welcomes the degree of flexibility available in the management of co-supervised students, as outlined in the open session of our meeting. We request that the relevant web pages be updated to reflect this.	The web pages describing the ATNF Graduate Student Program (see <a href="http://www.atnf.csiro.au/research/graduate">www.atnf.csiro.au/research/graduate</a> ) have been up-dated. Feedback is welcome anytime, especially from students and their supervisors. Baerbel Koribalski is the ATNF student coordinator and should be the first point of contact for student-related issues.	Green
24. ATUC seeks clarification on the documentation requirements and review process of ATNF students. The process for accepting students should be made as transparent and streamlined as possible. Sarah Maddison is happy to discuss this further with relevant ATNF people.	The documentation requirements and review process is outlined on the web pages given above (item 24); both have essentially remained the same over the last years. In summary, students wishing to enter the ATNF Graduate Student Program will write - in consultation with all their supervisors - a project description & timeline, similar to what is required by their university, and send this together with a brief paragraph on why they wish to enter the program (incl. commitment to regular visits, ATCA Duty Astronomer, Annual Student Symposium) and student/supervisor details to the program coordinator. The program coordinator, currently Baerbel Koribalski, reviews the application, requests changes/additions when needed, and then forwards the complete application to the Astrophysics Theme Leader, Robert Braun. The student is informed and welcomed into the program once the ATNF Director has approved the application.	Green
25. ATUC recommends that the science planning process now underway should also take into account the resources needed/available to develop essential scientific software such as ASAP, ATCA Sched, MIRIAD and pulsar software. We ask that Mark Weiringa give a presentation on this at our next meeting.	As part of the Future Operations planning all observatory software is being reviewed, including the items mentioned specifically by ATUC. A report on the status of this review and planning will be given to ATUC at its next meeting.	Green
26. ATUC welcomes the engagement of the community in the planning of a user policy for ASKAP. It would be valuable to draw on experience from others who have formulated policies and participated on large projects at other telescopes.	<p>The ASKAP User Policy is currently being formulated under a process set out in the ASKAP User Policy document available from the ASKAP memo pages at <a href="http://www.atnf.csiro.au/projects/askap/Memoseries.html">http://www.atnf.csiro.au/projects/askap/Memoseries.html</a> and recently endorsed by the Chair of the ATNF Steering Committee. A User Policy Taskforce has been engaged to provide advice to the ATNF director on issues relating to the ASKAP user policy. The Taskforce (chaired by Ilana Feain) consists of 10 astronomers: 50% ATNF and 50% non-ATNF, the latter including the chair of ATUC and a Canadian representative.</p> <p>Members of the Taskforce will draw on their broad expertise as astronomers and their experience with the use, administration and management of major radio and other astronomical facilities around the world.</p> <p>ATNF Users have been alerted to the User Policy development process and document and invited to provide feedback. In September and November, the ASKAP project scientists (Simon Johnston and Ilana Feain) will be travelling to Australian</p>	Green

	institutions to engage the user community and solicit feedback on the issues surrounding ASKAP user policy.	
27. Up to five new ATUC members, plus two student members will need to be appointed before our next meeting. Since we are part-way through reviewing the future operations issues, it may be appropriate to extend the terms of one or two of the retiring members to retain some continuity and the ATUC Chair will discuss this with the ATSC Chair.	Agreed.	Green
28. We note that the ATSC or its successor will need to identify a new ATUC chair in the near future.	Noted	Green
29. ATUC has been asked to clarify the role of student members. It is important to note that they attend ATUC meetings to represent the views of students, rather than senior astronomers at their home institution. We will ask the ATSC to make sure that that this is clear in the letter of appointment.	Noted	Green
30. ATUC suggests that it would be valuable to have an international member attend our meetings on a more formal basis, especially as we move towards discussing user policy for ASKAP. This is another issue we would like to discuss with the ATSC.	Ultimately user policy on ASKAP will be decided by CSIRO, in coordination with the Australian SKA Coordination Committee. Advice, particularly from the ATSC (or its successor) and its sub-committees, will doubtlessly be useful. There is already significant international astronomy expertise on ATSC (and indeed planned for its successor) capable of providing advice on this matter. Given the additional cost to CSIRO and the existing mechanisms that already exist for obtaining international advice at a higher level, the ATNF do not consider there to be a compelling case to formalise international membership of ATUC at this stage.	Red