


















Director's response to ATUC Report – November 2018

ATUC Recommendation	Director's Response	Traffic Light
1. Commendations and successes		
ATUC commends CASS on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Manchester being awarded the 2019 Matthew Flinders Medal and Lecture • Lisa Harvey-Smith being appointed as Australia's first Women in STEM Ambassador • The success of the 2018 ICRAR/CASS Radio School in Geraldton • The success of the MRO open days • The recent Nature/Nature Astronomy papers based on ASKAP observations • Successful delivery of the multibeam receiver for FAST and the PAFs for Effelsberg and Jodrell Bank 	Noted and thanks	
Recommendations		
2. ATUC		
a) ATUC respectfully requests that CASS pass on to the ATSC for their consideration the attached document, which contains a few suggestions on how the ATUC Terms of Reference might be brought up to date for the ASKAP era.	This will be presented to the ATSC at their May 2019 meeting.	
b) Next ATUC meeting to be scheduled prior to ATSC meeting.	Done	
3. Prioritisation of technology development		
a) CASS should provide clear and timely communication to the lead CIs of the various LIEF Eols regarding CASS's final prioritisation and the level of support that CASS would provide to whichever proposal(s) were selected to go forward.	Timely discussions were held with the CIs of all 3 LIEF EOIs received and agreed on plans to progress these proposals.	
4. Time Assignment Committee		
a) CASS should consider revisiting the makeup of the TAC to ensure that all key science areas have a genuine expert on the committee. The pool of readers should also be expanded and used effectively.	The make-up of the TAC is reassessed each time a member is replaced, with new members requiring the approval of the AT Steering Committee. The pool of readers is also regularly refreshed with new members with complementary expertise, though a complete scientific coverage is not always achievable. We note that, as spelt out in the OPAL user guide, proposals are expected	

	to be aimed at an astronomer who is a non-expert in that particular field.	
5. Broken web pages		
a) Pages noted by users to be outdated should be updated. The owner and date of last modification should be included at the bottom of each page on the website.	Efforts are continuing to improve the ATNF webpages in this regard. We will be recruiting a Content Manager to assist with this task.	
6. Gravitational Wave Follow Up		
a) That CASS consider requiring the three gravitational wave follow up teams to collaborate, co-ordinating a strategy and sharing data to maximise the efficiency of follow up and minimise the impact on the rest of the ATNF science program.	We were unable to coordinate with the teams before the 2019APR proposal deadline, and as such the same three proposals were submitted. After separate discussions with each team, and with the TAC, we have decided that data sharing will be enacted for those situations where more than one team wants to point the same receiver at the same position. This has been agreed to by all the science teams. To minimise the impact on the rest of the schedule, the 2019APR semester has ~24 hour contiguous blocks of green time spaced roughly fortnightly. When possible, any NAPA triggers will be accommodated by these blocks, or else projects displaced by the NAPAs will be moved into them.	
7. ASKAP		
a) CASS should revisit the product labelling scheme. Simplification to 3 levels would be very useful (e.g. Raw, Calibrated, SST-Generated).	While we appreciate the logic behind this request the present numbering scheme has been in place for several years, dating back to Jessica Chapman's original presentation on CASDA to ATUC in December 2013. We therefore intend to retain the existing numbering scheme, to avoid the likely confusion from a change at this late stage.	
b) The option of splitting the bandwidth into non-contiguous frequency chunks should be explored given that this capability would benefit many of the SSPs.	CASS is currently drawing up a list of possible ASKAP upgrades and enhancements to be included in a new project plan commencing in the second half of 2019. The	

<p>c) The feasibility of trading bandwidth for beams be explored, with the scientific returns being balanced against the resources required to implement the mode before any prioritisation is made.</p>	<p>capability of non-contiguous frequency bands is among those for active consideration. An update on this process will be provided at the next ATUC meeting.</p> <p>As for b) above, while noting that the trading-bandwidth-for-beams capability is likely to require a significant software effort.</p>	
8. ATCA		
<p>a) <u>Remote requalification</u> – CASS should continue to develop remote requalification practices and plan to make this option available to observers once it has reached a sufficient level of maturity.</p> <p>b) <u>Legacy observer training</u> - CASS should consider developing a set of guidelines and processes that would allow designated members of Legacy survey teams to train (and qualify) new observers.</p> <p>c) <u>Automatic overrides</u> - Automatic overrides be allowed to occur while the current observer is using 64 MHz mode. This should either use the current 64 MHz mode or be changed to continuum mode (by the PI of the triggered proposal) based on the CABB requirements of the subsequent scheduled observations (in conjunction with the expected length of the trigger). We suggest that if the scheduled observations following the expected end of the triggered observation would be in 64 MHz mode that the triggered observations use 64 MHz mode. In the case that CABB would have been</p>	<p>A set of qualification guidelines will be developed shortly, and remote requalification trials will begin once Vanessa Moss begins her tenure as Observer Support officer in mid-year 2019.</p> <p>The same qualification guidelines and practices referred to in 8a will be shared with the Legacy project teams to enable them to produce qualified observers.</p> <p>The software will be altered to allow over-rides in 64 MHz mode, and we anticipate it will be in place for the first 64 MHz observations in the 2019APR semester.</p>	  

<p>changed to continuum mode by the end of the triggered observations then we suggest that the correlator configuration could be changed prior to the triggered observations commencing</p> <p>d) <u>Legacy surveys</u> - CASS should communicate the process for data release to the Legacy survey PIs, and clarify the support offered to Legacy surveys, particularly around promised resources such as disk space.</p>	<p>CASS has been in touch with the PIs of Legacy Projects with an update on these resources.</p>	
<p>9. Parkes</p>		
<p>a) CASS should continue commissioning of the UWB Low and TOS.</p>	<p>We will continue to commission the UWL receiver as well as the TOS Gui control system. The receiver itself is now a national facility, but we will continue the characterisation of the receiver, and the expansion of observing modes and capabilities.</p> <p>Once the UWL is fully commissioned and characterised we will update the documentation to ensure issues such as the data rates are clearly articulated to the observers.</p>	
<p>10. LBA</p>		
<p>a) CASS should include an LBA update in the Open Session of future ATUC meetings, and endeavour to provide continued support to all ATNF telescopes participating in LBA operations.</p>	<p>This will be added to the agenda for the April 2019 meeting. There are no plans to change current LBA operational levels.</p>	
<p>11. Other issues</p>		
<p>a) ATUC requests updates on major facility issues and developments, as well as mid- and long-term visions for the different instruments, at each ATUC Open Session.</p> <p>b) Should significant resources be invested into the construction of a second dish at New Norcia, ATUC recommends that CASS pursue a host country agreement with guaranteed host country time attached.</p>	<p>Agreed. A summary of technology developments, issues and plans will be presented.</p> <p>The Australian Space Agency (ASA) is the primary point of contact with ESA in the plans for a second large dish at New Norcia. CASS will ensure that possible access to the new antenna for astronomy is one</p>	 

	of the options 'on the table' in any negotiations.	
12. Other community feedback		
a) Schedules to remain primarily in UT, with AEST remaining as an indication of East Coast office hours.	Agreed.	