



Australian SKA Coordination Committee Charter

Version 1 – April 2021

Background

The Australian SKA Coordination Committee's (ASCC) purpose is to support and advise Australian Government involvement in the development and construction of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), designed to be the world's largest radio telescope. It seeks to ensure the project is positioned to meet Australia's hosting obligations in the lead up to, and during, the Construction Phase and to maximise the return to Australia from its participation in this global mega-science project.

The ASCC is an advisory body to the Australian and West Australian Governments. Bilateral arrangements between the Australian Government and the Western Australian Government recognise the ASCC and its associated advisory and working group structure as the primary mechanism for coordinating between the Governments during the Pre-construction and Construction Phases of the SKA project.

The ASCC provides a mechanism through which the Australian Government can closely consult with members on SKA matters that require an Australian position. The ASCC will also consider broader strategic issues during its regular meetings, to proactively address a range of issues relevant to the project's design and implementation.

At a minimum, ASCC meetings will be held in advance of face to face SKA Observatory Council meetings and Member meetings. Other ASCC meetings may be held on an as needs basis.

Any matters considered by the ASCC which require a decision from the Government(s) shall be made by the relevant Government(s) in accordance with its own procedures and authority. In that sense, the ASCC has an advisory role only.

ASCC Strategic Objective

The strategic objective of the ASCC is to support the development and construction of the SKA and maximise the benefits to Australia through:

1. **Governance** - Maintaining robust governance arrangements between national and international project partners.
2. **Site Delivery & Protection** - Ensuring the readiness of an Australian site, with relevant infrastructure and adequate radio-quiet protection, on a timescale approved for SKA construction.

3. **Project Design, Funding & Implementation** - Contributing to the international design and implementation of the SKA project to position the project to undertake construction in the latter half 2021.
4. **Accrued Benefits** - Maximising the benefit to Australia, and Western Australia specifically, for their Government's respective investments in the SKA by providing policy frameworks that foster innovation and participation, and ensuring public communication of these benefits.

The Australian and Western Australian Governments, through the ASCC and its subcommittees and relevant agencies and institutions, will develop work plans to deliver this objective as required. This work will be led by the Australian SKA Project Director and staffed by a team based in the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER) with additional input from resources in the Western Australian Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR), and potentially others as appropriate.

The ASCC will review progress against the strategic objective at each regular ASCC meeting.

ASCC Membership

The ASCC was established to coordinate the Australian and Western Australian Governments' involvement in the SKA project. The Governments have agreed that the ASCC will comprise one permanent member from each collaborating government, a permanent representative from both ICRAR and CSIRO, the ASCC Science Advisory Committee Chair, an Australian member on the SKA Science and Engineering Advisory Committee (SEAC), and up to three other expert members on a 2-year basis as required.

Current membership

Position	Member
Member representing Australian Government (Chair)	Ms Janean Richards, Head of Division, Science and Commercialisation Policy, DISER
Member representing ICRAR (Deputy Chair)	Professor Peter Quinn, Director, ICRAR
Member representing WA State Government	Ms Linda Dawson, Deputy Director General, Office of Science, JTSI
Member representing CSIRO	Dr Douglas Bock, Director, CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science
ANZSCC Science Advisory Committee Chair	Dr Phil Edwards, CSIRO SKA Project Scientist
Australian member of SEAC	Dr Naomi McClure-Griffiths, ARC Future Fellow, Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, ANU
Expert Member	Mr Trevor Danos, Legal strategist (until June 2021)
Expert Member	Mr Mark McAuley, Chief Executive Officer, Astronomy Australia Limited (until June 2021)
Independent Member	Professor Steven Tingay, Deputy Executive Director, International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) (until June 2021)

Advisory Committees

The following advisory committees will report to the ASCC in areas where broad external consultation is required to advance the ASCC's strategic objective:

- Science Advisory Committee
- Australasian SKA Industry Cluster
- Regional Stakeholder Group