AAL Science Advisory Committee (ASAC)

Applications for all positions close on Thursday 5th November, 9:00 AM AEDT.

If vacancies remain after all applications received by the deadline have been considered, late applications will be accepted.

Astronomy Australia Limited

Astronomy Australia Ltd (AAL) is a not-for-profit company supported by members across Australian universities and research organisations with a significant astronomical research capability. It is governed by an independent Board of Directors. AAL manages the Astronomy Program of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) and oversees management of the Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT) and Australia's in-kind contributions to Rubin Observatory.

AAL's purpose is to advance the science of astronomy in Australia by supporting achievement of the goals of the *2026-35 Astronomy Decadal Plan* - the articulation of the highest priorities of the Australian astronomy community over the coming decade.

In particular, AAL seeks to secure national access to groundbreaking astronomy facilities, build Australian capacity, and work with organisations in Australia which manage national astronomy facilities. It also seeks to collaborate with partners to ensure astronomy enables a thriving community. AAL's vision is for Australian astronomy to have access to the world's best research infrastructure to conduct groundbreaking science, support Australian industry and innovation, and deliver impact for society.

ASAC

In order to make informed decisions about the best way to invest in astronomy infrastructure, AAL and its Board relies upon strategic and technical advice from its advisory committees.

AAL's Science Advisory Committee (ASAC) is tasked with providing AAL with strategic advice on the infrastructure requirements of the Australian astronomical community to enable them to address the key science questions for Australian astronomy, as described in the *2026-35 Astronomy Decadal Plan*:

1. How is stellar and galaxy evolution interconnected across all scales?
2. What is the dark Universe made of?
3. How does physics work in extreme environments?
4. How do planetary systems form and evolve, and are they habitable?

AAL relies on the advice of ASAC to assess the alignment of current and potential investments with the Decadal Plan. In recognition that all investments are understood to have a project life cycle, ASAC will also provide advice on the appropriate point at which AAL should no longer fund existing investments.

ASAC has a remit to provide strategic advice to AAL on broader developments in astronomy, their relation to the Decadal Plan and to inform annual updates to AAL's Strategy and Plan.

ASAC meets quarterly via video conference.

ASAC is composed of astronomers from a broad range of scientific and technical fields.

Applications

If you consider yourself well placed to contribute to this committee via your expertise and ideas, please email Shona Madoc, AAL's Director of Programs, (cc info@astronomyaustralia.org.au) with a maximum three-page application that includes:

- A covering letter describing your relevant expertise
- A brief CV
- Any relevant conflicts of interest.

Any questions regarding the committee or the application process are welcome.

AAL encourages applications from all interested candidates with the appropriate skills and expertise. AAL specifically considers gender balance across committee appointments and seeks to maximise the number of AAL member institutions involved with AAL committees.

ASAC Terms of Reference

The AAL Science Advisory Committee (ASAC) is a committee of Astronomy Australia Ltd. The purpose of ASAC is to assist AAL by executing the following:

- Consider the suite of Australia's national telescopes and computing facilities (including Australia's access to international facilities) and assess whether they, both individually and in combination, cater for the needs of the Australian community in addressing the key science questions of the *2026-35 Astronomy Decadal Plan*.
- Advise on how to leverage Australian capabilities to maximise participation and collaboration in, and benefits from, astronomy infrastructure projects of national significance.
- Advise the Board on the strategic alignment of new project proposals with the Decadal Plan, and on their prospective scientific return on investment.
- Advise the Board on the strategic alignment of existing projects with the Decadal Plan, and on opportunities for their handover.