



Astronomy-Space Coordinating Committee (ASCC)

Applications for all positions close on Friday 15th July, 9:00 AM AEDT.

If openings 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).

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, we seek to secure national access to groundbreaking astronomy facilities, build Australian capacity, and work with organisations in Australia which manage national astronomy facilities. We also seek to collaborate with partners to ensure astronomy enables a thriving community. Our 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.

Astronomy-Space Coordinating Committee (ASCC)

The Decadal Plan calls for Australia to strengthen access to space facilities – from payload development to ground stations. There are opportunities to consider the nexus between astronomy and space science, and translation pathways between the two, that deliver mutual benefit.

AAL aims to assist community progress in collaboration between astronomy and space within the constraints of a currently limited budget.

Our strategic objectives are to:

- Explore opportunities to assist the community to gain access to data from space-related activities and enter relevant consortia where there are synergies with priorities of the Decadal Plan.

- Engage with key stakeholders in the Australian space ecosystem to represent the interests of Australian astronomy and demonstrate the opportunities of astronomy research translation to the space industry.
- Explore opportunities to use existing astronomy infrastructure to support the space industry.

The Astronomy–Space Coordinating Committee (ASCC) has been established by the AAL Board to bring together expertise across space-based astronomy, space technology, and industry. Its role is to strengthen coordination within the community and engagement with external stakeholders on matters related to space programs and data.

The ASCC aligns with the Astronomy and Space Science Decadal Plans and aims to enhance Australia’s engagement at the intersection of astronomy and space, with a strong focus on advancing opportunities in space-based astronomy.

Members are appointed for two-year terms, with the possibility of renewal.

- The ASCC Chair is appointed for a one-year term and will report to the AAL Board
- The ASCC meets four times per year, usually via videoconference.
- The AAL Board may request advice from the ASCC out of session on space-related matters if such a need arises.

Applications

Astronomy Australia Ltd (AAL) is inviting applications from suitably qualified Australian-based astronomers for the AAL Astronomy–Space Coordinating Committee.

To be considered for the role, applicants should demonstrate their:

- expertise/interests in space astronomy programs and space industry projects;
- track record of research or technical experience in areas of relevance to space astronomy; and
- ability to liaise with the wider Australian community and external stakeholders.

Should you wish to be considered for the AAL Astronomy–Space Coordinating Committee, please email applications@astronomyaustralia.org.au with a maximum three-page application including:

- A short covering letter describing your expertise relevant to the committee terms of reference (see below)
- A brief CV
- Any relevant conflicts of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact [Lucyna Chudczer](#), Senior Program Manager, if you have any questions regarding the role and this process.

AAL is committed to equity and diversity and encourages applications from everyone with the appropriate expertise and skills. AAL specifically considers gender balance across committee appointments and seeks to maximise the number of AAL member institutions involved with AAL committees.

Terms of Reference for the Astronomy–Space Coordinating Committee

Purpose:

As Australia’s space sector continues to grow and diversify, and as the cost of space-based astronomy decreases, new opportunities are emerging to adapt or extend astronomical infrastructure for broader space-related activities.

The Astronomy-Space Coordinating Committee will serve as a strategic bridge between the astronomy community and the space sector, ensuring effective coordination, collaboration, and mutual benefit and to maximise the impact of Australia’s investments in these sectors and supporting the Australian Government’s policy agenda for a future made in Australia.

The Committee will advance the aspirations outlined in the 2026-35 Astronomy Decadal Plan, particularly those focused on strengthening Australia’s access to space facilities, and deliver on ‘Priority Action 2D: Host Advanced Astronomical Facilities in Australia’ which seeks to strengthen Australia’s ability to access space facilities - from payload development and mission participation to ground-segment capabilities. The Committee will also take into consideration the 2021-30 Space Science Decadal Plan, which calls for shared capability development, and enhanced collaboration between the space science and astronomy communities.

To achieve these goals, the Committee will:

- Represent the interests and capabilities of the Australian astronomy community at national and international space fora, ensuring the astronomy community is visible, connected, and positioned to participate in emerging opportunities within the fast-evolving space landscape.
- Identify and promote synergies where astronomical expertise, facilities, and technologies can contribute to national space priorities and support the Australian Government’s future made in Australia agenda.
- Foster meaningful engagement with Australian and international industry partners to support funding pathways, technology transfer, capability development, and future mission opportunities.

The Astronomy-Space Coordinating Committee shall:

- Provide advice to the AAL Board and CEO on the highest priority issues and opportunities in the space sector affecting the Australian astronomy community, consistent with the Astronomy Decadal Plan and Space Science Decadal Plan.
- Inform development and implementation of activities relating to the astronomy-space nexus as identified in the 2026 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap
- Identify and communicate to the Board, other funders and agencies opportunities where engagement with the space science sector could amplify AAL’s strategic goals.
- Provide advice to the AAL Board on opportunities for collaborative research in the space sector that leverage existing or emerging Australian astronomy capabilities, facilities, and expertise.
- Work with key stakeholders within the Australian space industry (government, commercial, defence, academia) to propose effective avenues for engagement, and facilitate communication to represent the interests and capabilities of the Australian astronomy community.

- Refine and prioritise a workplan that articulates how it will support efforts to increase space telescope utilisation and access, space-based data and infrastructure, space instrumentation and technology development, astronomy-relevant small satellite concepts, and International Collaboration and Partnership Development.

Membership and appointments process

- The Astronomy-Space Coordinating Committee will be appointed by the AAL Board in the open process of nominations advertised to the astronomy community.
- The Chair and other members will be appointed by a recommendation of the AAL Board.
- The Committee shall contain at least five members.
- Members will have expertise/interests and be actively engaged in space astronomy programs, and/or with a desired experience in large and complex space industry projects.
- Members will participate actively in pursuits of the Committee with a collaborative approach demonstrating unified leadership.
- The majority of members are to be from institutions supporting Australian space programs.
- The AAL Board will endeavour to maintain membership composition in accordance with AAL aims for institutional, geographical, career stage and gender diversity across its advisory committees.
- The normal term will be for 24 months, with a range of 18-30 months appointments being made if required in order to stagger them.
- The Chair and Committee members agree to abide by the AAL Code of Conduct and other guidelines.

Meetings

- The Astronomy-Space Coordinating Committee will meet four times a year, two to three weeks before AAL Board meeting. These meetings may be carried out by videoconference or in person.
- Quarterly Updates shall be circulated by the Chair of the Committee to the relevant AAL staff for consideration by the AAL Board.
- If any issues arise requiring urgent attention, the Chair will call an ad hoc meeting of the Committee.