



**Professor Robyn Owens**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

19 September 2019

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

I am writing to you to express the strong support of The University of Western Australia for Australia's participation in the Square Kilometre Array through its ratification of the Convention Establishing the Square Kilometre Array Observatory.

The University of Western Australia is ranked as one of the top 100 research and innovation focused universities in the world. For over 100 years, the University has fostered and promoted research excellence in Australia that is closely linked to national needs and international opportunities. The University considers the SKA facility to be a landmark international scientific endeavour that will deliver transformational insights into the origin and evolution of our Universe. The international effort to design and build the SKA offers the University an opportunity to train a new generation of scientists, engineers and big data specialists who will have a significant impact on Australian science and industry. Furthermore, the SKA enables us to attract some of the best international researchers and technologists to Australia because of the capabilities and challenges the SKA represents.

Over the past ten years, the University, together with Curtin University, has created and grown the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) to be an essential component of the international SKA design and development project and a long-term participant in SKA operations, science and innovation. Through ICRAR, the University will continue to realise and grow the multiple benefits that result from Australia's participation in the SKA. Additionally, UWA is a partner in the Pawsey Supercomputing Facility, which leverages significant scientific benefits from the Federal Government investment into the SKA project. These benefits will raise the international profile of the University and highlight Australian research capabilities. Through the nexus of the academic and industrial engagement that the SKA offers, we are in an ideal position to translate research outcomes to industry and the broader Australian community. The University looks forward to a long engagement with the SKA and strongly supports Australia's participation in the Convention Establishing the Square Kilometre Array Observatory.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Robyn Owens**  
**Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)**