



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR KIM CARR

Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

Wednesday, 20 May 2009

NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED

The Government will establish a National Research Infrastructure Committee (NRIC) to provide strategic advice on future research infrastructure investments, including those to be funded through the Super Science Initiative.

"Since 2007 the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy has funded large collaborative projects to support research in priority fields," Innovation Minister Kim Carr said.

"The NRIC will drive and undertake strategic planning and mapping across all categories of research infrastructure and contribute policy advice to Government. It will facilitate coordination across different levels of investment in research infrastructure from institutional to national and landmark and will provide advice to the Education Investment Fund Advisory Board.

"The Committee is made up of leading researchers from across a wide range of research disciplines and I look forward to the valuable contribution they will make.

"Research infrastructure is the bedrock of good research and a robust innovation system. The NRIC will be a key element in supporting the Innovation portfolio's lead role in developing a coherent and robust policy agenda for research infrastructure.

"To date, landmark facilities such as the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation research reactor, the Australian Synchrotron, and the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder radio-telescope have been funded on an individual basis. The NRIC will oversee a process to identify and prioritise Australia's landmark research infrastructure needs.

Careful planning, close collaboration between stakeholders and rigorous priority-setting will all be key elements of the investment decision making process. It is essential that expensive equipment is accessible to as many researchers in as many institutions as possible.

"Quality infrastructure can also attract international scholars to Australia, which will boost country's innovation capacity," Senator Carr said.

The NRIC will be chaired by Mr John Ryan, former Deputy Secretary of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. The list of members is attached.

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SENATE ECONOMICS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10

1-4 JUNE 2009

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 4

BY: MR MARK PATERSON, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION,
INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TIME/DATE: 10.40pm, 1 JUNE 2009

MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Chair

- Mr John Ryan, former Deputy Secretary of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

Ex-officio Members

- Professor Margaret Sheil, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Research Council
- Professor Penny Sackett, Chief Scientist of Australia
- Dr Megan Clark, Chief Executive Officer, CSIRO
- Professor Warwick Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, National Health and Medical Research Council
- Ms Patricia Kelly, Deputy Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

Other Members

- Professor Thomas Cochrane, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Technology, Information and Learning Support) at Queensland University of Technology
- Professor Edwina Cornish, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Monash University
- Professor Peter Høj, Vice Chancellor of the University of South Australia.
- Dr Suzanne Miller, Director of the South Australian Museum
- Professor Margaret Seares, Former Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at The University of Western Australia