



ACCESS-NRI Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes #26

Thursday 31st July 2.00 – 3.30pm

Attendees

Chair: Andy Hogg

Rapporteur: Natalia Bateman

Members: Charmaine Franklin, Rachel Law, Paul Spence, Claire Vincent, Ariaan Purich, Lenneke Jong, Andrew Robinson

Observers: Victoria Allen, Mike Tetley

Apologies: Kelsey Druken (proxy: Romain Beucher), Martin Dix (proxy: Claire Carouge), Adele Morrison, Laurie Menviel, Tilo Ziehn, Oscar Alves.

1. Welcome & Acknowledgment of Country

2. Previous Minutes of SAC Meeting 15th May

The previous minutes have been approved and uploaded on the [ACCESS-NRI website](#).

Matters Arising:

- Follow-up on options for enhancing SAC Meetings – see Item 3.6.

3. ACCESS-NRI Updates

3.1 National Digital Research Infrastructure (NDRI) update

Current indications are that NCRIS will call for their 2025 funding round soon (end of July/August).

3.2 CMIP7 update (Rachel Law)

- We are working on adding some Australian plant functional types and switching to the One API compiler.
- Kept running the model under pre-industrial conditions.
- We are keeping an eye on the ocean temperature as it is still drifting when running for hundreds of years following the change to the solar constant.
- Input4MIPS not yet delivered nitrogen deposition or ozone forcing
- Still working on data request to find out which variables people want to submit.
- Production runs starting around September.
- Once production runs have started, there will be a pre-release version that expert users will be able to access.

3.3 Data update

Summary of the recent updates for reference data supported by ACCESS-NRI merit allocation scheme was provided. Further detail, including proposals and dataset list, can be found in the SAC SharePoint site:

[ACCESS-NRI supported reference data](#)

3.4 Software update

A list of recent releases was provided in the agenda pack.

Comment: The release of the ACCESS-OM3 is super amazing. There is more to do to improve the model scientifically.

3.5 Business/Communications Update (Victoria)

The ACCESS Community Workshop is fast approaching:

- We have published a [Draft Program](#), and the 3 plenary guest speakers locked in.
- We are offering an online option (only access to plenary talks and not interactive) and now we have a quote for AV support.
- Money for AV has been redirected to travel support for students and ECRs. Information about the student and ECR's support conditions will be sent soon
- Current registrations: 80 for workshop and 26 for the COSIMA hackathon.
- Registrations close 15 August.
- We are waiting for the programs for the CWG meetings to add to the website.

3.6 Enhancing SAC meetings

The SAC Terms of Reference (TORs) were formulated 3 years ago. As a committee we've learnt a lot in the intervening time, and we would like to propose several changes to the TORs (draft attached with suggested changes tracked).

As discussed, several meetings ago, these changes are suggested to ensure that the committee can more effectively meet its primary purpose – which is to advise the ACCESS-NRI Board and Director on strategic planning and implementation. Once we can agree on the changes, we will take the revised TORs to the Board for ratification, with changes to the SAC to take place in 2026.

This is not about changing the role of the SAC, as it was well thought out. We left the role identical and focused on its composition, which needs to be improved.

There are two primary changes proposed:

1. Ensure diversity of research gender and cultural and every CWG. Membership will be reviewed every two years, which are due to do now. Every CGW need to be represented in the committee, as currently we don't have representation from some CWGs.

2. Proposal to have an independent Chair. Until now, Andy Hogg has been on this role, but we feel it is important to have an independent chair who sets the agenda, following the example of other NCRIS projects like AuScope, TERN and AURIN, which have an independent Chair for their SAC.

This proposal has considered the following aspects:

- Chair gets appointed by nominations by this committee and has a 2-year terms to drive the agenda and direction for this committee.
- Decision on frequency of SAC meetings is for the new Chair to consider.
- ACCESS-NRI will still attend the SAC meetings, and we are happy to present updates and add agenda items.

The independent Chair will enable more input from the community – to address our concern that SAC meetings are disseminating information rather than providing advice. If approved, we will take the new ToR to the Board and plan for the Chair to start next January.

Comments/Responses to the SAC ToR changes:

1. **On the proposal to improve diversity and inclusion of all CWGs and communities in the SAC:**
 - Agreed that the SAC needs to give more input. If people are not contributing and not getting back to their community, that is a problem.
 - Modify the agenda to make it more interactive and get more feedback from the CWG.
 - Get more direction from the CWGs of what we need and the kind of input you want from the CWGs through us would be useful.
 - Suggestion for Andy to have a meeting with all the co-chairs of the CWGs and discuss this with them.
2. **On the proposal to have an Independent Chair:**

There was a general push back on the proposed independent Chair including the following points:

- Having someone external who is not across all the things that are happening around the ACCESS-NRI space won't work.
- ACCESS-NRI bring the ACCESS Community together and we span around a range of different communities; a single chair may only have the perspective of one part of our community.
- We would need someone with a lot of drive and energy and who is also a national leader for the community.
- ACCESS-NRI is so complex that is difficult to digest the information to understand the issues.

Alternative Suggestions

- Instead of having a single Independent Chair, we could have two co-chairs (one from ACCESS-NRI and one from the ACCESS Community). Input for the agenda will come from ACCESS-NRI.
- To involve the 6 different working groups by having a co-chair between ACCESS-NRI and a permanent or rotating member of the CGWs. That way, each of the CWG representatives will be responsible for one or two meetings per year. We could also pick up particular topics for discussion relevant for that CWG specifically to cover in that agenda.

ACTION (Andy): Andy will get back to the drawing agenda and get back to you with another proposal that incorporate this feedback.

ACTION (Andy): Organise a meeting with all the co-chair of the CWGs and discuss with them the proposal for enhancing the SAC meetings, including a member from each CWG.

Item 4: Presentation on ACCESS-NRI Ice Sheet Modelling team (Mike Tetley)

- Mike leads the ice sheet team– it has been two and a half years since Mike started at ACCESS-NRI and the other two members of the team (Lawrence & Justin) joined in January 2025. Justin will be transitioning to half Monash (research role) and half ACCESS-NRI.
- We are trying to hire a postdoc level modeller that will sit in each of the ice-sheet modelling teams. We are expecting UTAS to advertise in August and Monash is advertising now.

See presentation attached in the SAC folder.

ISSM team Key objectives 2025-2026:

- ACCESS-ISSM (beta) September 2025 – currently in alpha.
- PyISSM – Python API for ISSM end to end framework.
- Cryosphere data pool – intake catalog

Coming up: ACCESS models coupling and configurations: development of coupled ISSM-AM3 and OM3, use NUOPC coupler, engage ISSM community in Australia.

Item 5: Working Group Updates

Land Surface (Claire Carouge)

Land Surface CWG meeting during the ACCESS Community Workshop: We are having a half day Workshop on Monday afternoon with talks. Friday will involve a discussion and a working bee.

One of our highlights is that there has been quite a lot of progress to create CABLE ancillary files with NCI and the land community.

Coupled & ESM (Rachel Law)

We are struggling to maintain momentum for speakers for meetings. We have 2-3 hours of talks for the ESM CWG meeting in September, but the dilemma is that we are also interested in other CWG meetings.

Atmosphere Modelling (Charmaine Franklin)

We now have a better structure for our meetings, including one technical talk and one science talk but we have struggled to get ACCESS-NRI to give a talk. Our focus has been on the Regional Model.

CWG meeting on Friday: we have talks in the first part of the day from the Bureau and universities in areas of common ground and opportunities for collaboration. We were hoping for stash training in the afternoon, but it doesn't seem there is enough support/capacity to do this as the ACCESS Training Day is already full. We are not sure how many people will be attending the Friday, so we need to do more advertising for Friday afternoon.

People are using the rAM3 models, but they need more support from ACCESS-NRI.

ACTION (Andy): Andy will have a chat with Heidi and Paige about the possibility of organising stash training at the Workshop

Ocean-Sea Ice Modelling (Andrew Kiss)

Cryosphere

The CWG is planning the agenda for the meeting on Friday which will include science talks and an interactive hands-on ISSM tutorial in the afternoon interacting with the Spack runs on Gadi.

Machine Learning for weather and climate

Some activity on the Momentum partnership (Hackathon) online and Momentum in person using NCI and UK computer for the node there. Clear support for having something face to face for the Hackathon. The Agenda for the CWG is almost ready to go.

Item 6: Any Other Business

The next SAC meeting will be at the workshop during breakfast morning on Thursday 11 September.

We will consider a proposal to have multiple smaller workshops for the future instead of one – Andy will provide details before the meeting.

Item 7: Next Meeting

11 September 2025 7:30– 8:45 am In Melbourne (Melbourne Connect)

ACTIONS from this meeting:

ACTION (Andy): Andy will get back to the drawing agenda and get back to you with another proposal that incorporates your thoughts on this, it will take a bit of time to get back to you.

ACTION (Andy): Organise a meeting with all the co-chair of the CWGs and discuss with them the proposal for enhancing the SAC meetings, including a member from each CWG. If you have further thoughts, contact Andy.

ACTION (Andy): Andy will have a chat with Heidi and Paige about the possibility of organising training at the Workshop