



ACCESS-NRI Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes #29

Thursday 11 December 2.00 – 3.00pm, AEST

Attendees

Chair: Andy Hogg

Rapporteur: Natalia Bateman

SAC Members: Charmaine Franklin, Rachel Law, Paul Spence, Claire Vincent, Tilo Ziehn, Oscar Alves, Ariaan Purich, Lenneke Jong, Andrew Robinson,

ACCESS-NRI Observers: Kelsey Druken, Martin Dix

Apologies : Laurie Menviel, Adele Morrison, Victoria Allen

1. Welcome & Acknowledgment of Country

2. Previous Minutes of SAC Meeting September

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

3. SAC Terms of Reference

At our last meeting in November, we discussed the new SAC Terms of Reference. Andy received substantial feedback from current SAC members. At last Friday's ACCESS-NRI Board meeting, the Board endorsed the revised SAC Terms of Reference, subject to minor changes (including more specific selection criteria for members, limiting the committee size to 10, and tightening wording to ensure each Community Working Group is represented). The final version will be distributed shortly.

Next steps:

1. Publicly announce the formation of the new SAC
2. Call for applications/nominations (Jan/Feb 2026)
3. Form a Board subcommittee to evaluate nominations (March 2026)
4. Convene an initial meeting of the new SAC to elect the Chair and Deputy Chair (March 2026)

Comments

About the application/nomination process

- We should recruit people through the Community Working Groups (CWGs). Each CWG should be represented by at least one person, this doesn't mean they need to be a CWG chair.
- ECR participation: The new Terms of Reference state that we need people at different career stages. Depending on the individual, it might be difficult for an ECR to represent a CWG. The suggestion is that a mixed or combined role with a senior person would make sense, though this depends quite a lot on the individual.
- It's very important for this group to advocate for people. Andy would like some of you to reapply for this role, as it would be very valuable to have continuity and previous experience.
- For the Chair and Deputy Chair positions, someone with previous SAC experience is preferred.
- It would be good to have one or two international participants. While the time difference can be challenging, we should still try to nominate international candidates and appoint them using the same criteria as local candidates.

About the timing

- Call for nominations in January 2026 and give people time to consider this and for the working group meetings to resume.

ACTION: All to consider people they could nominate, including international applicants.

4. ACCESS Community Workshops 2026

Over the last few weeks, Andy met with each of the Community Working Groups to explore options for running a series of smaller workshops in 2026. Currently proposed workshops include:

1. COSIMA/Cryosphere workshop

Location: Hobart

Timing: Mid-November, 5 days in total

This will incorporate the COSIMA Hackathon, possible ACCESS-NRI training, 1–2 days of joint workshop sessions, and possibly additional working group meetings on the sidelines. We are trying to secure a university or partner venue at no cost.

2. Global coupled model workshop

Location: Melbourne

Timing: Early September, 2–3 days

Hosted by the ESM and Land Working Groups (noting that others may also have an interest). The timing of this meeting will allow for evaluation and discussion of ACCESS-ESM1.6 simulations for CMIP7 FastTrack, but the scope will be broader than just CMIP7. May also include ACCESS-ESM3 and CABLE4 development, and paleo simulations. A possible venue is Aspendale.

3. Regional atmosphere ML & modelling meeting

Location: Melbourne

Timing: August, probably 3 days

This meeting will explore collaborative opportunities on future forecasting and downscaling, via the Atmosphere and ML Working Groups. It will include regional coupled models, ELFRIC regional reanalysis, and AI work. The scope will be broader than the two community working groups, covering physics-based, AI/ML, and hybrid approaches.

Overall comments

- It would be good if workshop themes have some flexibility, so people feel they can attend multiple workshops.
- Be clear that a workshop on a particular topic will help broaden interest in that area.
- Encourage ECR participation; we will be forming programme committees.
- Hopefully this approach will be simpler than organising one single large workshop.

Next steps: Finalise dates and locations, form program committees for each workshop, and begin advertising (ACCESS-NRI).

5. Any other Business

CMIP Update (Rachel Law)

- The code for ESM1.6 has been finalised. Final forcing for the pre-industrial period has been prepared; by this point, this is no longer spin-up but the PI control run. Outputs meet the high-priority requirements in the data request.
- The first test of the historical run (using a mix of CMIP6 and CMIP7 settings and forcings) is complete and is producing interesting results. Some graphs were shown comparing ESM1.5 and the new runs, with surprising results to explore further. Idealised runs: we hope to get these running over the Christmas break. Once we know the timelines for different phases, it would be good to communicate these to others.
- We need to have scenarios ready so that groups like CORDEX can use them. Manodeep has achieved 25 years/day performance and is still improving it. Currently at 27 years/day (previously 16-18 years/day).
- Martin Dix noted that a test run with the new ozone is now running.
- Upcoming tasks include post-processing to allow data publication in the ESGF. Romain Beucher is working on this. Kelsey Druken should be involved due to her experience.

Gadi Refresh update / Large compute/storage use plans (Andrew Robinson)

- We need people to provide notice when additional storage is needed. Note that funding for CMIP7 storage depends on the NDRI proposal and outcomes won't be known until 2026.
- Storage will be separate to the Gadi refresh.
- Gdata 1A and 1B are currently being replaced; addition storage will depend on NDRI funding.

Cryosphere WG:

- An offer has been made to a candidate for the postdoc at UTAS.

COSIMA

- We are appointing new CGW co-chairs: We will have 5 co-chairs and two are going to step down.

Item 6: Next Meeting

This will be our last SAC meeting in its current form. Andy thanks current and past members of the SAC for the continued engagement and input for the last 3 years (29 meetings), and he is looking forward to working with the new SAC in 2026.