



MINUTES - SAC Meeting 11 March 2026

Attending: Paul Durack, Adele Morrison, Pearse Buchanan, Dave Hutchinson, Edward Doddridge (IMAS, UTAS, Ocean), Jorge Galvez, Vassili Kitsios, Mika Peace, Alex Norton, Yi Huang, Sonya Fiddes (Atmospheric model UTAS), Victoria Allen, Kelsey Druken, Martin Dix, Andy Hogg (chair for this meeting), Natalia Bateman (minute taker)

1. Welcome and introductions (5 mins)

Andy welcomed the new members of the ACCESS-NRI committee

2. Introductions (15 mins)

The new members introduced themselves, outlining their areas of expertise and the organisations they represent, including if they chair an ACCESS Community Working group (CWG)

- Edward Doddridge: Ocean modelling (UTAS/IMAS, Co-chair COSIMA CWG)
- Sonya Fiddes: Atmosphere (UTAS)
- Vassili Kitsios: Data simulation, Machine learning, atmosphere and ocean models, climate emulators (CSIRO, Co-chair ML CWG)
- Pearse Buchanan: Biogeochemical ocean developer, global and regional uses (CSIRO, Co-Chair COSIMA CWG)
- David Hutchinson: Paleoclimate modelling, biogeochemistry (UNSW, Co-chair ESM CWG)
- Yi Huang: clouds conventions, cloud climate interaction, high resolution weather modelling (Melbourne University, Co-chair Atmosphere CWG)
- Paul Durack: physical oceanography, water cycle and energy budget, CMIP coordination and ESGF (DWER, WA).
- Alex Norton: Land surface processes, carbon, vegetation and soil cycle and interactions with the climate, CABLE model, ACCESS in ESM runs for the CMIP7 fast track (CSIRO)
- Mika Peace: operational forecasting, fire agencies in Australia ACCESS-Fire, 100 m resolution (Bureau of Meteorology)
- Adele Morrison: ocean modelling high resolution models around Antarctica, ice-shelf ocean interactions (ANU, Co-chair COSIMA CWG)
- Jorge Galvez: HPC specialist, computational chemist, MOM6, ML (NCI)

3. Role of the SAC

Andy opened the meeting by providing background on the committee's renewal. He then outlined the role of the Scientific Advisory Committee, as per the Terms of Reference, including:

- One of the main aims of the SAC is to develop an ACCESS-NRI Roadmap, which requires a high-level plan that takes into account a broad range of perspectives.
- The role of the SAC is to advise the ACCESS-NRI Director and the Board; however, it does not hold formal decision-making power. This advice is important as scientific input is essential to the work of ACCESS-NRI.
- The SAC has a national and international liaison role.
- Andy outlined the current funding situation from NCRIS and advised the committee that the latest funding announcement is imminent.

Comments:

- There is an urgent need to develop a plan that can be used to advocate for resources and ensure they are used efficiently.
- Climate science is currently facing significant uncertainty regarding CSIRO and NCRIS funding. Being able to articulate what is needed and why is critically important, as is leveraging connections and resources, and coordinating activities with other infrastructures such as NCI and Pawsey.
- Question: How does the SAC interact with the Board? Response: To date, the SAC has not engaged strongly with the Board; interaction has largely been limited to information sharing and reviewing the work of the Community Working Groups (CWGs). This is one of the primary reasons for renewing the SAC. It would be beneficial for the SAC Chair to report to the Board, and vice versa.
- ACCESS-NRI would welcome SAC input into the annual ACCESS-NRI Work Plan. Significant community input was gathered this year.

4. Election of the Chair

The Board nominated Adele Morrison as Chair for continuity, given her membership of the previous SAC. Adele accepted the nomination and, as no further nominations were received, the committee elected Adele Morrison as Chair of the SAC.

Vassili Kitsios nominated and was confirmed as Deputy Chair by circular.

5. Discussion

How we will work

It was suggested that the committee hold an annual in-person meeting. Funds are available to bring members together for a full-day in-person meeting to set strategic directions. Suggested dates included a meeting following the ESM Land Workshop in early September in Melbourne, or on a separate date in Canberra or Melbourne.

ACTION: Circulate a poll to determine availability for the first in-person meeting.

Announcement of the SAC

We need to make an announcement about the new SAC to the ACCESS community.

ACTION: All members to send their profiles and photos to Natalia for inclusion on the ACCESS-NRI website.

Other Items

The committee identified a need to share documents and hold discussions between meetings. Natalia will create a SharePoint folder and provide members with access details. The committee also agreed to establish a private ACCESS-Hive Forum channel for between-meeting discussions.

ACTION: Natalia to create a private SharePoint folder for the SAC and populate it with relevant documents, including ACCESS-NRI Work Plans, Strategy, Factsheet, Annual Highlights Report and Key Messages.

ACTION: Natalia to create and ACCESS-Hive Forum channel for the SAC.