



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Incorporating business
plan for FY2021–22

ACOLA is an independent,
not-for-profit organisation
that supports evidence-based
interdisciplinary advice.

Acknowledgement of Country

ACOLA acknowledges all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Custodians of Country and recognises their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community. We pay our respect to the Elders both past and present.

In particular, we acknowledge the people and lands on which our staff work – the Ngunnawal lands in Canberra, the Bunurong Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation in Melbourne, and the Whadjuk people, part of the larger Nyoongar Aboriginal nation in Perth.

Australian Council of Learned Academies Annual Report 2020–21

This document is a true and accurate account of the activities of the Australian Council of Learned Academies for the financial year 2020–21, in accordance with the reporting requirements of its Constitution, the ACNC, and for the conditions of grants made by the Australian Government under the Higher Education Support Act 2003 (Cth).

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Who we are: our vision, mission, values and objectives



Purpose

Advising Australia – advancing discussions on complex issues through trusted, independent, and interdisciplinary evidence-based advice.



Vision

ACOLA aims to be a key source of high-quality, robust, and independent interdisciplinary advice for Australia's decision-makers and the public on complex challenges and issues.

Objectives

Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To deliver evidence-informed interdisciplinary advice to support and guide policy decision-making processes• To engage and contribute interdisciplinary perspectives to public debate and awareness-raising on emerging national and regional issues• To promote an appreciation within the community and among decision-makers of the value that interdisciplinary research and scholarship provides as an evidence-base for public policy
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engaging disciplinary experts to advance research and scholarship• Promoting the application of interdisciplinary expert knowledge• Declaring and disseminating interdisciplinary expert knowledge• Advocating standards of research and scholarship to encourage excellence
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To collaborate with the Learned Academies, professional institutes, other Learned societies and educational institutions in matters of mutual interests; and• To establish and maintain cooperative relations between the Company and overseas bodies having similar objectives in the disciplines represented by the Company's members



Mission

To provide a forum that brings great minds, broad perspectives, and knowledge together to help solve complex societal issues for the benefit of Australia's social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing.



Values

Integrity, rigor, transparency, inclusiveness, creativity, collaboration and interdisciplinarity..

Strategic Statement

The scale and complexity of the challenges facing communities across the world, especially with COVID-19, calls for fresh, robust and authoritative thinking, and new approaches if our legacy is to secure a better world for future generations, economically, socially and environmentally. ACOLA's aim is to advance discussions on complex issues through trusted, independent, and interdisciplinary evidence-based advice to solve real world problems. In doing so, we are unique in the Australian landscape – we seek to place research and trusted experts at the core of policy making.

In an era of misinformation and multiplicity of views, many of which while convincing are not evidence-based, the need for ACOLA and the Learned Academies is critical, to raise research-based policy advice above opinion and institutional, discipline and political biases.

Through our esteemed membership, ACOLA brings together over 3,500 of Australia's leading academic and industry experts spanning science, the humanities, social science, health and medical

sciences, and technology and engineering.

This powerful resource, representing and drawing from Australia's Learned Academies' fellowships, allows us to be the key independent thought leaders delivering comprehensive and interdisciplinary evidence-based advice to shape public policy, inspire innovation and deliver solutions to complex issues.

ACOLA's interdisciplinary approach sets it apart from other research and policy organisations in this country. It is founded in the recognition that complex challenges are mostly effectively addressed by bringing together specialist expertise from across domains, which are more than 'the sum of the parts'. This ensures that policies, technologies and considerations are practical and implementable from the lab to the real world.

With research programs including the Securing Australia's Future series and more recently the Horizon Scanning series, ACOLA has nearly five decades of demonstrated experience as a trusted and influential source of expert advice for governments, industry and the public.

Chair's note

It gives me great pleasure to bring you the Annual Report of the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) for 2020/2021. It has been an honour to take on the rotating Board Chair role, on behalf of the Australian Academy of Science, during 2021.

Notwithstanding the ongoing challenges of the pandemic in 2020-21, it has been an especially successful year for ACOLA. Our advice has led to better policy considerations and public scrutiny, and provided the evidence that underpinned new government initiatives. This demonstrates the ongoing critical interest and value of interdisciplinary research-based advice, from timely reports and advice for the Chief Scientist related to COVID and parliament to deep, insightful horizon scans on emerging technologies.

After four years as Australia's Chief Scientist, we farewellled Dr Alan Finkel AO FAA FTSE FAHMS. We wish him well in his next endeavours. ACOLA was pleased to work closely with Alan on numerous issues to help guide Australia through the challenging waters of COVID-19 and provide insights into future opportunities for Australia under our Horizon Scanning series. Change brings new opportunities, and we look forward to collaborating with Dr Cathy Foley AO FAA FTSE, as the new Chief Scientist, in supporting the National Science and Technology Council.

My warmest thanks to the Presidents of all the Learned Academies for their dedication to our ongoing collaboration through ACOLA, which extends back to 1970 with the establishment of ACOLA's earliest form, the Consultative Committee of the Australian Academies (CCAA). These past five decades show the leadership and commitment of the Academies to building a strong Australia through interdisciplinary perspectives garnered by bringing together Australia's leading minds across industry and academia. 2020-21 has shown how critical our work continue to be, as the complex and wicked problems of climate change and a pandemic and opportunities of new technologies, to name but a few, demand the integration of robust research and expert opinion across research domains, especially bringing together traditionally STEM and HASS expertise.

Finally, I would like to thank the ACOLA management team and research and policy staff for their commitment and professionalism throughout this challenging year, especially those based in Melbourne who have experienced long and difficult lockdowns. Without them, ACOLA's members could not become greater than the sum of its parts and deliver our high-quality advice.



Professor John Shine AC PresAA
Chair, Board of Directors
ACOLA

CEO's Report

In a world of increasingly multitudes of information and dis/misinformation sources, access to key trusted expert advice has been crucial to instil confidence and provide clarity in times of uncertainty and to support good policy. The key issues of 2020–21 have shown the importance of research-based advice being at the core of policymaking. I am proud that ACOLA has been able to step up to this need and in doing so delivered on our purpose – *Advising Australia: advancing discussions on complex issues through trusted, independent, and interdisciplinary evidence-based advice.*

Over five decades of collaboration, the Learned Academies through ACOLA and its predecessors have brought deep thinking and leadership to a broad range of complex issues, and 2020–21 has been no exception. Indeed, the last 12 months have been one of ACOLA's busiest, diverse and successful years, especially with the establishment of a new collaboration with the Australian Parliamentary Library to support and foster greater insights and discussion on important issues.

Growing membership

Throughout the year, each academies' fellowships have grown and we have also welcomed the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science (AAHMS) as Australia's newest Learned Academy. We look forward to further growing our collaboration and impact through our expanded membership.

Influencing policy

While 2020–21 has been another challenging period for ACOLA and the wider community, as the COVID-19 pandemic's economic and social impact grows, ACOLA has again broadened awareness and impact with policy makers, and led to a more diverse suite of activities. Key successes included:

- delivering insightful and considered advice through: four substantive reports and related briefings on agricultural technologies, Internet of Things (IoT)), the value of the Victorian research ecosystem and Australia's energy transition; two submissions to parliamentary inquiries; and a summary paper on energy storage technologies
- undertaking a broad range of briefings to the Australian and Victorian Parliaments and state, territory, and federal departments, such as on geopolitics, Antarctic governance, Australia's energy transition, IoT, critical and emerging technologies, human rights and new technologies and Australia's demographics
- leading discussion on how the research community should respond to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and
- continuing to support the Chief Scientist and government through rapid advice to support the response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am honoured to work with the Learned Academy Presidents, who comprise ACOLA's Board and Research Committee. Through regular meetings, this group has ensured ACOLA remains focused and our work is robust, balanced, and relevant, so our research-based advice can enable a more prosperous, fair and inclusive Australia.

Lastly, ACOLA is grateful and recognises that many of its successes result from the special contributions and support of Australian Chief Scientist; Academy Fellows; the Department of Education Skills and Employment; and our various project sponsors throughout this year.

It has again been a privilege to work with ACOLA's members and their Fellows, and leading an organisation that has the capability to help guide and lead Australia through the challenges it faces, both in the short and long term.



Ryan Winn
Chief Executive Officer
ACOLA

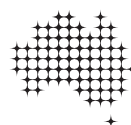
ACOLA's members

Bridging the disciplines for informed public policy

Australia's five Learned Academies are members of the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA). Each academy holds this formal recognition through identification under the Australian Government's Higher Education Support Act (HESA).

ACOLA partners with other appropriate organisations for specific projects and activities.

Australia's Learned Academies



Australian
Academy of Health and
Medical Sciences

Partners



AIATSIS
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

Charity status

ACOLA is an established Australian Research Institute as approved by the Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment; is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC); and holds Deductible Gift Recipient status with the Australian Taxation Office.



Governance Structure



The ACOLA Team

Management



Mr Ryan Winn

Chief Executive Officer



Dr Lauren Palmer

Director, Policy and Projects



Fiona Clothier

Business Manager and
Company Secretary

Research and support staff

Fern Beavis

Senior Research and Policy Officer
(Regional Research Excellence and Energy Transition)

Stephanie Chan

Senior Research and Policy Officer
(Internet of Things and Energy Transition)

Ella Relf

Research and Policy Officer

Dr Michelle Low

Research and Policy Officer
(Stimulating Research)

Illona Harvey

Business Support Officer

How We Work

ACOLA is unique in Australia in providing trusted, independent, interdisciplinary and publicly available research-based advice to governments. Importantly, ACOLA can access, assess and synthesis world-class academic and interdisciplinary research thinking into peer-reviewed advice for policymakers and the wider public on some of Australia's biggest future challenges.



Issue identification

ACOLA works in close partnership with government and decision-makers to identify and scope issues. This can involve formal and informal discussion, including workshops with Fellows, to identify and refine the scope of activities and studies.



Convening experts

ACOLA convenes an Expert Working Group (EWG), consisting of Fellows from across the Learned Academies and member academies, and other experts. This ensures a broad interdisciplinary focus to comprehensively address technological, social, cultural and economic aspects.

Once the project scope and parameters are agreed with project sponsors, the EWG identifies the research and analysis contributions needed to address the project's key issues. This can include: in house research, input from leading Australian and international experts, and consultation with government, industry and community stakeholders.



Consultation, data collection and analysis

The next, and substantive, stage of studies involves the collection, collation and evaluation of all the input and evidence received. This includes assessing the breadth, depth and potentially contradictory information. A focus and priority is placed on robust peer-reviewed and authoritative research evidence. This stage usually involves a workshop involving project sponsors to synthesise and identify key findings. This stage concludes with a final draft report.



Peer Review

The draft report undergoes an independent peer-review process, to ensure its findings are evidence-based, accurate and independent. Peer reviewers are typically Fellows from the Learned Academies but can involve appropriate industry experts. Peer reviewers are not asked to endorse the report's conclusions or findings, nor do they view the final report before its release finalise the report.



Finalise report

ACOLA works with the EWG and ACOLA Board to consider feedback from peer reviewers and project sponsors to finalise the report. Once the report is agreed, final production work is undertaken, e.g. design, final copy-editing, and printing etc.



Sponsor briefings

Prior to release, ACOLA works with project sponsors to provide briefings to key Ministers, executives, decision-makers and other key stakeholders on the report as appropriate.

Release and post study activities

A key value proposition for project sponsors are post-release activities. As reports are undertaken in partnership, ACOLA works with sponsors to explore appropriate opportunities to promulgate reports with key stakeholders and the wider public, e.g. through briefings, social and traditional media and panel sessions.

Year in Review

Published Reports



Horizon Scanning Report

The future of agricultural technologies

Date released: 29 September 2020

Project Aims:

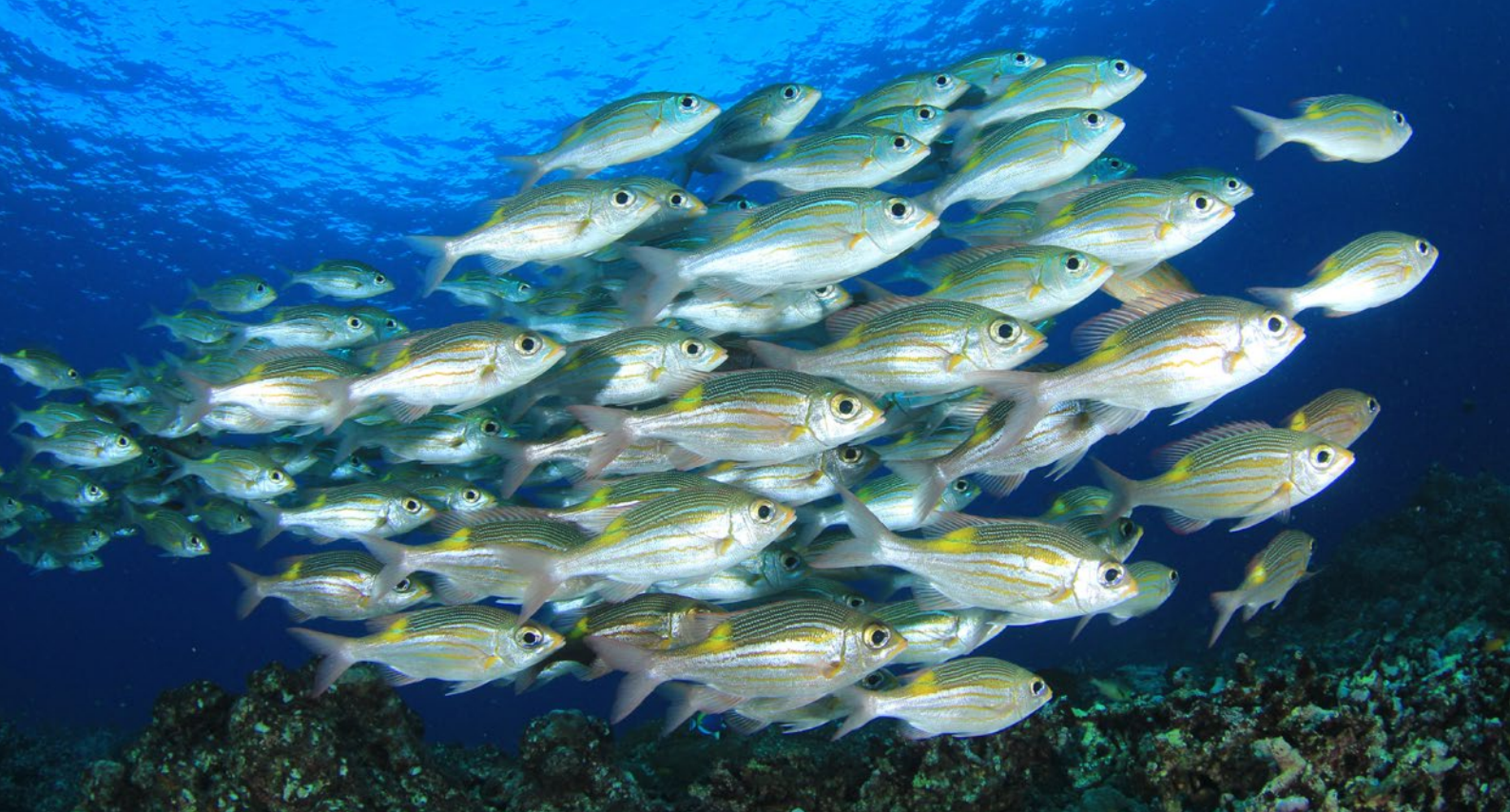
To examine and understand the impacts, opportunities and challenges associated with around ten highly prospective technologies likely to impact agriculture over the next ten years and consider how Australian agriculture is positioned to meet them. This will include consideration of the role these technologies can play in helping Australian agriculture address the broader trends and pressures facing it, including:

- Climate variability and resilience
- Changing consumer preferences
- Workforce capacity
- Environmental and landscape sustainability
- Biosecurity

- Industry disruption
- Costs of production.

Each technology will be analysed within the following framework:

- What transformative role could the technology play in the agricultural sector?
- What are the social, cultural, economic, legal and regulatory implications of the technology?
- What is the role of 'big data' in the technology? Where relevant, examine issues of data integrity and standards and security and privacy.
- What is the role for government and industry in addressing challenges and facilitating uptake of opportunities, presented by the technology?



Key findings

1. Addressing the opportunities and challenges facing Australian agriculture requires transformative application of emerging technologies.
2. Australia's agricultural technology and innovation ecosystem needs revitalisation to provide more opportunity for stakeholder involvement and to break down sectoral and disciplinary silos.
3. The strength and resilience of Australia's agricultural sector will be enhanced by supporting adoption of agricultural technology by Indigenous landholders.
4. Technology development and adoption across Australian agriculture should include explicit consideration of buyer preferences and expectations.
5. Appropriate policy settings are needed to enable technological implementation to move beyond incrementalism and support transformational change.

6. Data are a powerful asset but will require appropriate national leadership and regulation to ensure their potential value to agriculture is realised.
7. Empowering Australia's regions through investment in local solutions and capacity will facilitate transformational change through agricultural technologies and will provide complementary social and economic benefits.
8. Farmers and other agricultural workers need support to familiarise themselves with emerging technologies and to obtain the specialist skills required to maximise their use.

This project was commissioned by Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel AO, on behalf of the National Science and Technology Council with funding support and in partnership with the Australian Government through the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.



Horizon Scanning Report

The Internet of Things

Date released: 4 November 2020

Project Aims

1. Examine the impact the IoT is likely to exert on Australia over the coming decade.
2. Identify and assess the opportunities and challenges presented by the deployment of the IoT in Australia, both in key industry sectors and as an economy-wide enabler, including:
 - the scientific, technological, economic, security, social, privacy, data ownership, regulatory and other impacts of the different IoT technologies, applications, data and users
 - the future education, workforce, regulatory and infrastructure requirements to support the practical measures governments, industry and other stakeholders could consider to maximise the benefits of IoT deployment and mitigate potential harms.
3. Explore the interrelation of IoT systems, people and the underlying infrastructure (e.g. communication systems, transportation) that is essential to modern life.

Key findings

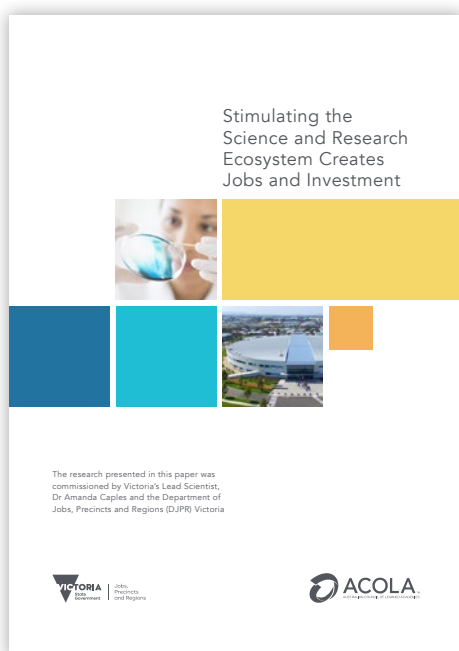
1. Australia could consider a national approach on IoT, with a view to responding to the opportunities and challenges that IoT present over the next decade, building on existing industry and government efforts.
2. Australia should focus on areas of strength and comparative advantage to bolster our competitiveness in the global IoT market. This includes leveraging our geographic and climate diversity to test novel IoT applications.
3. Opportunities to implement the IoT to improve wellbeing and quality of life in Australian cities and regions will enable greater understanding of the technology and its applications by government, businesses and communities.
4. Digitalisation is expected to continue at a rapid pace over the next decade. It is important to ensure that data collection, usage and application from the IoT and related digital technologies is ethical, meaningful and fit for purpose, supported by appropriate legislation and regulatory frameworks.



5. Regulatory frameworks and policy guidelines should be technology-neutral, flexible and principles-based building on existing frameworks. This will ensure they are consistent with international standards, and can respond to future technological developments and changing consumer behaviours and preferences over the next decade.
6. Australia should continue to be proactive in its approach to security and could establish baseline protection and redress mechanisms. These will need to be adapted as the digital landscape evolves and new risks arise, including in the context of increased IoT adoption and deployment.
7. Early and proactive community education and engagement is necessary to encourage community awareness, acceptance and trust of the IoT and related digital technologies, particularly as IoT devices and applications become more widespread and embedded in our built environment.

8. Close industry–government–education collaborations will help to ensure that Australia’s workforce acquires the new skills and enhanced capabilities necessary to thrive in an IoT-permeated economy.
9. Research priorities will continue to evolve as IoT technologies mature. Proactive assessment of research gaps and consideration of associated funding towards these will ensure that the IoT is developed in a responsible and measured approach.

This report was commissioned by Australia’s Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel AO, on behalf of the National Science and Technology Council with funding support and partnership with the Australian Government through the Australian Research Council (Project number CS170100007), and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.



Victorian Government Report

Stimulating the science and research ecosystem creates jobs and investment

Date released: 16 September 2020

The aim of the report was to understand and outline the value of investing in science and research and its competitive advantage to Victoria. While Victorian focused, the report has broad relevance with relevant insights for policymakers across the country, and in Canberra.

The report showed the national relevance of Victoria's research ecosystem across the economy, including the role current and any future investment can have in Australia's recovery from COVID-19. This report provides an evidence base to guide and support further investment in science and research infrastructure, skills, talent attraction and the use of contestable funding to catalyse industry-led innovation as part of stimulus measures for future jobs and economic prosperity.

In brief, the report:

1. consolidates understandings and insights to show the value to the Victorian economy of investing in the research ecosystem, with a focus on those investments made through the State's STI Initiative
2. highlights that there are significant spill-over benefits of investments to industry and wider society
3. identifies that future investments in research capacity, infrastructure and talent will be critical to the future success of the Victorian economy, and
4. includes a number of case studies and identifies the benefits they have all creating in jobs, research outputs and commercial translation and supporting research student, including on:
 - a the Australian Synchrotron
 - b Victorian nodes of two National Research Infrastructure facilities - the Australian National Fabrication Facility and the National Imaging Facility, and
 - c VESKI, which attracts and supports research fellows.



A panel session

A Panel session was held on Wednesday 21 October 2020 and moderated by Professor Bronwyn Fox FTSE. The panel discussion highlighted the evidence presented in the report and the importance of continued investment in research infrastructure, skills and talent attraction to deliver jobs and economic stability for Victoria's future. A recording of the event can be found on the ACOLA website.

This project was supported by the Victorian Government through the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and the Office of the Victorian Lead Scientist.

AUSTRALIAN
ENERGY TRANSITION
RESEARCH PLAN
RESEARCH PRIORITIES
CONSULTATION PAPER

January 2021



Australian Energy Transition Research Plan – 1st Report

In late 2020, with funding support from ARENA, CSIRO, and NERA, embarked on a three-year project to understand and support the research agenda that will be critical to underpinning Australia's energy transition to net-zero emissions by 2050, if not earlier.

It is widely accepted that a 'business as usual' trajectory is no longer feasible given our current reliance on consumption and export of fossil fuels and the cost of inaction on our economy, communities, businesses and environment continues to compound. The global momentum towards net zero emissions is also rapidly accelerating, which will impact global trade in commodities, technology and services.

ACOLA's work recognises that Australia must be efficient, responsive and forward-looking if our transition to net zero emissions is to succeed, with as minimal disruption to our economy and society as possible. This also applies to the research sector, which must respond with appropriate research and translation on a time scale reflective of this critical need.

Report 1: The Research Plan

Date released: 17 June 2021

On 17 June 2021, following deep and wider consultation, ACOLA released Australia's first Australian Energy Transition Research Plan – the Research Plan. This is the first of a series of reports under this project.

Following extensive engagement with the energy and research sectors, it was agreed that a successful energy transition needs to address the energy trilemma: reliable, affordable and reaching net zero emissions, while also placing the wellbeing of society at its centre. In achieving this, four critical challenges were identified:

- there is an absence of a scalable and cohesive research agenda
- Australia cannot rely solely on international research to address uniquely Australian problems and needs



- a successful transition must also encompass the perspectives and wellbeing of people, in the context of their lives, communities, economy and employment, in a way that is fair, and
- government, industry, research funders and research organisations, need to respond in a time scale that is reflective of the urgency and enormity of this issue

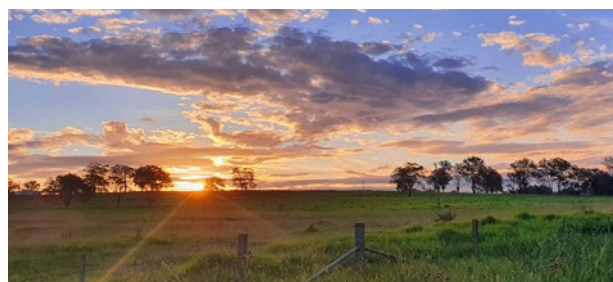
The Research Plan, and the project in overall, aims to shift the current research paradigm by highlighting key research gaps, opportunities and subsequent research questions that need to be addressed for Australia to transition successfully and rapidly. The first report identifies nine research priorities organised under three themes: energy system dynamics; social engagement dynamics and transition dynamics. Subsequent work will delve deeper into these research needs.

Webinar

On the 9 July 2021, a very successful public webinar was held to discuss this first of a kind report. Following an introduction to the Research Plan by ACOLA's CEO, Mr Ryan Winn. The Project's Chair Mr Drew Clarke AO PSM FTSE provides an overview of the Research Plan, followed by Professor Ken Baldwin and Emeritus Professor Sue Richardson FASSA speaking further about Australia's energy transition, and how the Research Plan can be used to support and improve strategic research over the course of the transition.

A copy of the consultation paper that informed this report and webinar are available on the ACOLA website.

Projects Underway



Australian energy transition research plan (AETRP)

Expected release: 2019 to 2022

This project seeks to create a comprehensive Research Plan that can be used by academics, industry and government to better understand research efforts and investment to support Australia's transition towards transition net zero emissions. The Research Plan will establish a baseline by identifying current energy transition research, and highlighting potential gaps or opportunities in the research landscape (including data), so that ongoing efforts and investment continues to be targeted, useful and strategic.

Australian Learned Academies Data Interworking Network (ALADIN)

Expected release: June 2022

The approach of this project is to understand the current and future research data needs and requirements (infrastructure, assets, policies, skills) of Australia from the leaders of academia and industry as represented by and through the Learned Academies to achieve the project's aim. The project's aim is to develop a cohesive data agenda across Australia's Learned Academies.

The Inter-Academies project will deliver the following outcomes:

- support and development for Australia's Learned Academies to provide leadership, advocacy and planning for data-enabled research
- sharing of approaches among Academies for a coherent data policy and planning environment
- identifying opportunities to align national research data infrastructure with the strategic needs of Academy research domains
- identifying opportunities for joined-up Academy agendas in support of data-enabled research
- establishing a network of data policy and planning capabilities across the Academies.

Australian Government Department

Enhancing the research capabilities of universities in regional, rural and remote areas

Expected release: to be confirmed

This study will seek to work with the regional, rural and remote (RRR) research sector to better understand the opportunities and barriers to improving research potential and outcomes at universities in RRR areas. The project forms a component of the department's focus on broader tertiary education outcomes and enhancing RRR communities.

Other Activities

Seminars, webinars and submissions



ACOLA continued to support the Australian Chief Scientist and National Science and Technology Council (the Council) through the timely, accessible and Rapid Research Information process, formerly known as the Rapid Research Information Forum (RRIF).

The role of AI in Australia in 2030

Webinar August 2020

ACOLA and the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) (ACT Branch) held a virtual panel session on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and government delivery.

Featuring a keynote presentation by Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel AO, the panel of AI experts and key Government officials leading AI implementation discussed future opportunities and challenges.

The panel's conversation focused on the role of AI for innovation in industry and service delivery and the implications this will have on our society for 2030, as well as discussing how AI will reshape government delivery and the importance and need to harness AI in Government.

ACOLA Submissions

2020–2021 Pre-Budget submission

August 2020

In considering the 2020-21 Federal Budget, the ACOLA and our members urged the Australian Government to adopt a strategic approach to supporting Australia's research sector that maintains Australia's strong performance in research outcomes.



Senate select committee on job security

March 2021

ACOLA welcomed the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Select Committee on Job Security. We note that the gig-economy provides opportunities for both businesses and workers. However, given the complexities of the direct and indirect, short and longer-term impacts on workers' entitlements, protections and health, there are critical questions that need to be explored. We congratulate the Select Committee on the thorough terms of reference (ToR) and support the areas outlined as critical issues that need to be addressed.

Collaboration between ACOLA and Parliamentary Library

Established in late 2020, the collaboration between the Parliamentary Library and the ACOLA facilitates independent, interdisciplinary research-based briefings and discussions on important topics between Australia's leading minds, from Australia's Learned Academies, and Parliamentarians and their staff. During 2019-20, a broad breadth of topics were covered, including vaccine development, the Internet of Things, Australia's energy transition, geopolitics, and the governance and science on Antarctica.

Where appropriate and agreed recordings of these seminars are published on the ACOLA and Parliament House website.

Workplan for 2021–2022

1



Visibility through strong communications, engagement, and outreach

Clear communication of ACOLA's value proposition, project processes, its activities and alignment to activities across society continues to be a priority. This includes working closely with governments to understand their urgent information and evidence needs to support their planning for social, cultural and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACOLA will invest in its communications capability and capacity, particularly to build awareness of the organisation and support the needs of stakeholders through access to independent and robust advice and understand the value of interdisciplinary advice. Key activities will include:

- enhancing ACOLA's approach to external engagement
- ensuring an active social media presence
- be a trusted adviser and broker for expertise and experts on policy issues, and
- deliver workshops and briefings for key stakeholder groups.

Building and maintaining relationships developed through past and existing projects will be important, especially with Ministers' offices and senior bureaucrats, to ensure and expand ACOLA's impact.

2



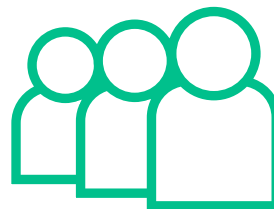
A key trusted adviser and thought leader on complex issues

ACOLA has a well-established track record in providing timely and interdisciplinary evidence-based expert advice to inform public policy development. ACOLA will continue to develop this further and reinforce its role as a partner of choice for governments in robust, independent, interdisciplinary advice.

ACOLA's work with governments covers a wide arc, from brokering expert discussions to supporting department reviews to undertaking robust, deep advice/horizon scans. Through regular and constructive dialogue with the Australian Chief Scientist, Ministers, Departmental executives and other stakeholders ACOLA will continue to identify the issues where our unique expertise can best support policymaking.

To support research being at the centre of policymaking and to improve parliamentary scrutiny, ACOLA will continue and grow its successful collaboration with the Parliamentary Library, providing independent research-based briefings on topics of interest to the Australian Parliament.

3



Robust partnerships across the research community, domestically and internationally

ACOLA will continue to foster its existing and identify new domestic and international partnerships and relationships to support our mutual objectives.

Importantly, continuing to strengthen partnerships with ACOLA members will be critical to its success. ACOLA also values its engagement and productive relationship with the Royal Society Te Apārangi in New Zealand.

Finally, ACOLA will continue to engage and develop relationships to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspectives are incorporated into ACOLA activities and studies.

Board of Directors



Professor John Shine AC PresAA (2021 Chair of the Board)
President, Australian Academy of Science

John was Executive Director of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research from 1990 to 2011. He is Professor of Molecular Biology and Professor of Medicine at UNSW Sydney. The 'father of gene cloning', Professor Shine was the first to clone human hormone genes and the first to sequence the replication of a cancer-causing virus.



Professor Joy Damousi FASSA FAHA (2020 Chair of the Board)
President, Australian Academy of the Humanities (to November 2020)

Joy is Professor of History and ARC Kathleen Fitzpatrick Laureate Fellow at the University of Melbourne. She has published widely on aspects of political history, women's history, the aftermaths of war, and the history of migration and refugees. Her current research is on a history of child refugees and Australian internationalism during the twentieth century. She is currently the President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and President of the Australian Historical Association.



Professor Hugh Bradlow FTSE
President, Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering

Hugh is President of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering. He is also an independent Non-Executive Director of Silicon Quantum Computing Pty Ltd. He is globally recognised as a thought leader in telecommunications and was elected as the joint 2009 Australian Telecommunications Ambassador of the Year, named by Global Telecom Business as one of the most 100 most influential telecommunications executives in the world and Smart Company designated him as one of the 12 most influential people in Australian ICT.



Professor Jane Hall FASSA
President, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

Jane is Distinguished Professor of Health Economics and Director, Strategy in the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation at the University of Technology Sydney. She established the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) in 1990 and served as Director until 2012.



Professor Lesley Head FASSA FAHA

President, Australian Academy of the Humanities (from November 2020)

She held an ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship at the University Wollongong from 2009-14. Her research focusses on both prehistoric and contemporary human interactions with the Australian environment, drawing on archaeology, physical geography and cultural geography. From this empirical base she has contributed to international debates about relationships between society and nature. Her most recent research has been on the cultural dimensions of environmental issues including climate change. Lesley was King Carl XVI Visiting Professor in Environmental Science in Sweden (2005-06), and was awarded the Vega Medal of the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography (2015).



Laureate Professor Ingrid Scheffer AO FAA PresAHMS FRS

President, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences

Laureate Professor Ingrid Scheffer AO is a physician-scientist whose work as a paediatric neurologist and epileptologist at the University of Melbourne and Austin Health has led the field of epilepsy genetics over more than 20 years, in collaboration with Professor Samuel Berkovic and molecular geneticists. This resulted in identification of the first epilepsy gene and many more genes subsequently.



Mr Ryan Winn

Chief Executive Officer, ACOLA

Ryan brings nearly two decades of experience leading strategy policy, research and program areas across various Australian Government departments to ACOLA. During that time, his broad areas of focus were higher education, research, research infrastructure, family violence and early childhood. He also had significant experience working on policies and programs that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Ryan has a Masters of Business Administration (Innovation and Leadership) from the University of Canberra and a Bachelor of Social Work from Curtin University.

Research Committee

Professor John Shine AC PresAA (2021 Chair)

Professor Joy Damousi FASSA FAHA (2020 Chair and member to November 2020)

Professor Jane Hall FASSA

Professor Hugh Bradlow FTSE

Professor Ingrid Scheffer AO FAHMS FAA

Professor Lesley Head FASSA FAHA (from November 2020)

Audit, Risk and Finance Committee

Professor Hugh Bradlow FTSE (Chair from January 2021)

Professor Jane Hall FASSA (Chair to December 2020)

Kylie Walker, CEO, Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering

Anna-Maria Arabia, CEO, Australia Academy of Science

Dr Tina Parolin, Executive Director, Australian Academy of Humanities

Dr Chris Hatherly, CEO, Academy of the Social Science in Australia

Dr Cath Latham, Interim CEO, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences

Auditor

AccountAbility (ACT) Pty Ltd

Legislative & Contractual Compliance

For the report period, ACOLA is up to date in its compliance with the provisions of relevant Federal corporate and tax legislation, as well as State legislation. All commercial contractual obligations are also up to date.

Expert Panel Members

Horizon Scanning Series

Future of Agricultural Technologies

Professor Stewart Lockie FASSA (Chair from Sept 2019)

Dr Kate Fairley-Grenot FTSE (Chair to Sept 2019)

Professor Rachel Ankeny

Professor Elspeth Probyn FAHA FASSA

Professor Tania Sorrell AM FAHMS

Professor Barbara Howlett FAA

Professor Alex McBratney FAA

Professor Salah Sukkarieh FTSE

Professor Linda Botterill FASSA

Professor Ian Woodhead,
New Zealand Royal Society Te Apārangi

The Internet of Things (IoT)

Professor Bronwyn Fox FTSE (Chair)

Professor Gerard Goggin FAHA

Professor Deborah Lupton FASSA

Professor Branka Vucetic FAA FTSE

Professor Paul Scuffham FAHMS

Professor Holger Regenbrecht,
New Zealand Royal Society Te Apārangi

Other studies

Enhancing the research capabilities of universities in regional, rural and remote areas

Professor Annabelle Duncan FTSE (Chair)

Professor Alan Andersen FAA

Professor Alex Brown FAHMS

Professor Stewart Lockie FASSA

Professor Helene Marsh FTSE

Professor Lesley Rogers FAA

Professor Sean Ulm FAHA

Stimulating the science and research ecosystem creates jobs and investment

Professor Joy Damousi FASSA FAHA

Professor Ian Chubb AC FAA FTSE

Dr Erol Harvey FTSE

Professor Elizabeth Webster FASSA

Dr John Bell FTSE

Professor Ian Harper AO FASSA

Dr Susan Pond AM FTSE FAHMS

Australian Energy Transition Research Plan

Mr Drew Clarke AO PSM FTSE (Chair)

Professor Kenneth Baldwin

Professor Fran Baum AO FAHMS FASSA

Dr Bruce Godfrey FTSE

Emeritus Professor Sue Richardson AM FASSA

Emeritus Professor Libby Robin FAHA

