

AN INVESTMENT IN AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE: Why the mathematical sciences matter

A Forum to discuss the findings and recommendations of the National Strategic Review of Mathematical Sciences Research in Australia, conducted by the National Committee for the Mathematical Sciences of the Australian Academy of Science

Wednesday 7 February 2007
The Shine Dome, Gordon Street, Canberra



“My Council, which represents all of the world’s major professional mathematical societies with an interest in applications, is greatly disturbed at the evidence of failing health of Australian mathematical sciences presented in the recent strategic review. The world cannot afford to lose the vital contributions made by Australian mathematical scientists, and Australia surely cannot afford to see any weakening of its critically important skill base in mathematics and statistics.”

Rolf Jeltsch
President-Elect,
International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Morning Program

- 9.00 **Welcome**
Professor Hyam Rubinstein, Chair of the National Committee
- 9.15 Chair: Professor Kurt Lambeck, President of the Academy
The Hon Pat Farmer MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Science and Training
- 9.45 Senator Kim Carr
Shadow Minister for Industry, Innovation, Science & Research
- 10-15 – 10.45 **Why the mathematical sciences matter—An industry perspective**
Dr Ian Marschner, Director of Biometrics, Pfizer Australia
- 10.45 – 11.15 **Morning tea**
- 11.15 – 1.00 **Meeting the Educational Challenges**
- Chair: Professor Cheryl Praeger
- Professor Garth Gaudry, Director, International Centre of Excellence for Education in Mathematics
Mathematics Curriculum
- Professor John Rice, President, Australian Council of Deans of Science
Teachers of Mathematics
- Mr Peter Laver, Vice-President, Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering
Post-school Education in Mathematics and Statistics
- Mr John Vines, Chief Executive, Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers
The Mathematical Skills Australia needs
- Professor William Dunsmuir, Statistical Society of Australia
The Statisticians Australia needs

Afternoon Program

1.00 – 2.00 **Lunch**

2.00 – 3.30 **Why the mathematical sciences matter**

Chair: Professor Peter Hall

Mr Peter Haggstrom, Director, Head of Technical Services, Deutsche Asset Management (Australia) Limited

Dr Melanie Bahlo, NHMRC R. D. Wright Fellow, Bioinformatics Division, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

Dr Frank de Hoog, Research Director, CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences

Ms Susan Linacre, Acting Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Dr Jeff Kepert, Data Assimilation Research Group, Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre

3.30 – 4.00 **Closing comments**

Chair: Professor Ian Sloan, President International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Professor Jonathan Manton, Executive Director, Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences, Australian Research Council

Ms Kate Hurford, Associate Director Public Policy, Engineers Australia

The Forum is supported by:



===== **FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES** =====