SKA Engineering Meeting – Site Trip to the MRO – October 2014

Notes and Conditions for Visitors (ver 1.3)

The information detailed below is for confirmed visitors to the Murchison Radio Observatory (MRO) on Friday 3rd October, 2014, as part of the SKA Engineering meeting held in WA that week.

**Travel & accommodation arrangements**

You have been allocated a seat on a commercial charter flight travelling from Perth to Geraldton, departing approx 7:30 p.m. (19:30 hrs) on Thursday 2nd October 2014. **Specific details concerning coach transfer from Fremantle to Perth airport will be issued by SKAO prior to flight.** Meanwhile, please note:

- Bring only carry-on luggage sufficient for two nights.
- We strongly suggest you eat prior to the flight, since dining options are very limited in Geraldton after 8:00 p.m. (20:00 hrs).
- A complimentary coach will collect you on arrival at Geraldton airport, and transport you to your (self-booked) accommodation at the Ocean Centre Hotel, or the Mantra Apartments, in Geraldton city. If you have booked elsewhere, you are responsible for getting there and returning to either above-named hotel by 6:00 a.m. (06:00 hrs) the next morning (Friday).

You have been allocated a seat on one of two complimentary return bus service from Geraldton to the MRO, departing at approx 6:00 a.m. (06:00 hrs) Friday 3rd October from the Ocean Centre Hotel, and the nearby Mantra Apartments, Geraldton city. Please ensure that you are waiting in front of one of these hotels at the stated time, as the coach will depart promptly.

After departing Geraldton, complimentary breakfast snacks and drinks will be available, and the coach will make a comfort stop at Mullewa before continuing to the MRO. The journey time between Geraldton and the MRO is approximately 5 hours; the segment time between Mullewa and the MRO is approximately 3 hours. Personal snacks and drinks may be purchased at the Mullewa stop, though time is very limited.

Following the MRO site tour and lunch, the coaches will return participants to the Ocean Centre Hotel and Mantra Apartments in Geraldton at approximately 8.00 p.m. (20:00 hrs). Note that, at this hour, there are limited opportunities for dinner in Geraldton, however CSIRO staff will assist with advice and/or reservations. On arrival back at Geraldton, participants are free to follow their own arrangements for onward travel. A single bus will leave the Ocean Centre Hotel for Geraldton airport at approx 6:45 a.m. (06:45) on Saturday 4 Oct. for the convenience of participants flying back to Perth that morning.

**Site Tour**

Following refreshments on arrival at the MRO, the group will split, and concurrent tours will run covering the control building and environs, and the ASKAP antennas and PAF receptors. On departure from the MRO at 2:00 p.m, the coach will pause to view the MWA telescope site and the site of future SKA1_LOWLFAA.

**Meals**

Apart from a range of free snacks and drinks available on the coach, participants will be provided with coffee/tea/water on arrival at the MRO, and a pack lunch prior to departure. Lunch packs cannot be personalised or pre-ordered, but there will be a vegetarian option. Any participants having a particular restriction or sensitivity (e.g. allergens) should make this known to the Coach leader on departure from Geraldton, and if possible, consider bringing their own food for added assurance.
What to wear and bring

Please wear clothing with long sleeves and trousers, wear sturdy enclosed shoes, and bring sunglasses. You will be provided with an SKA hat, sunscreen and bottled water, and a hard-hat as required.

You are welcome to take photos, so please bring your camera.

*If you take medication, don't forget to bring sufficient quantities for the whole trip (3 days min).*

Health and safety considerations at the MRO

While at the MRO, please stay within the areas designated at all times, and always follow directions by CSIRO staff. Please reapply sunscreen as needed, wear a hat, and drink plenty of water.

If you feel unwell, please notify a CSIRO staff member (identified by badge or CSIRO-branded clothing) who will arrange assistance for you; the main first aid point will be located inside the MRO control building close to where morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Please do not attempt to interact with native wildlife as animals can become aggressive when they feel that they are threatened. Under no circumstances pull up or cut flowers or plants, or collect stones or soil.

The MRO is a rubbish-free site, so please dispose of any rubbish in the bins provided.

There will be designated smoking areas at the MRO; if you smoke, please do so only at these designated points and use the ashtrays provided. The bus is non-smoking. This is an alcohol-free event.

**Special note!** The MRO is a very remote site. Qualified medical attention is by Royal Flying Doctor Service and is likely to be several hours in arriving. There is no mobile phone network coverage available beyond Mullewa. If you consider that these aspects of remote travel are not for you, please withdraw.

Key contact information

- **Tour Guides** – Ant Schinckel +61 (0)437 861 063 & Carole Jackson +061 (0)401 103 500
- Brett Hiscock (MRO Site Manager) +61 429 904 069
- Phil Crosby (Event Leader) +618 6436 8557
- MRO control building (+618 9923 7958), or

Trip cancellation, general conditions, and insurance advice

- While the SKAO, Department of Industry, and CSIRO, will make every effort to ensure this site trip runs smoothly and in accordance with the above plan, it is possible that unexpected events (e.g. bad weather) will force a change of plan, or cancellation of all, or part, of the event.
- Neither the SKAO, Department of Industry, nor CSIRO accept any liability for any costs incurred by participants should this site trip be cancelled for any reason, or events cause a change of itinerary.
- Participants on this site visit will be travelling on a commercial air charter, on a commercially operated 50-seat coach through a remote part of Australia on unsealed roads, and will spend approximately three hours at a very remote radio telescope observatory site. While there will be trained first-aid personnel, and emergency medical equipment, at the MRO site, participants should check with their sponsoring institute, employer, or personal insurer, that their travel insurance is valid and sufficient for the risks associated with such travel.