



THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Designated Optical Observatory Application Form

The Astronomical Society of Australia has been asked by STANDARDS AUSTRALIA to compile a list of 'designated' optical observatories that are valuable resources for (i) research, (ii) education and (iii) community use. All applications will be considered by the ASA Council and the ASA is the final arbiter of whether any particular observatory is 'designated'. Status as a 'designated' optical observatory will be reviewed periodically.

The Australian Standard AS4282 on 'The Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting' provides guidelines for planning authorities to ameliorate the effects of light pollution in the vicinity of optical observatories. We recommend that this standard and the guidelines should be drawn to the attention of local and state planning authorities. Good lighting practice benefits the whole community, not only astronomers.

Acceptance as a designated observatory does not imply any form of legal status, but it does recognise an observatory's contribution to the local or wider community and in our experience assists an observatory present a stronger case for protection against obtrusive lighting. The INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION (<http://www.darksky.org/~ida>) provides much information assisting this cause including strategies for dealing with councils and neighbours. Membership is highly recommended.

Submitting an application

If you wish to apply for 'designated' status your observatory, please fill out the application form below and submit it, preferably by email or fax, to the ASA Secretary at:

A/Prof. John O'Byrne
Sydney Institute for Astronomy
School of Physics
The University of Sydney
NSW Australia 2006
Ph : 61-2-9351-3184 Fax: 61-2-9351-7726
Email: john.obyrne@sydney.edu.au

For small private observatories it is important that a supporting statement from an astronomical society be provided testifying to the usefulness of the research program being undertaken and/or the community benefits from any educational activities. For school and college observatories someone on behalf of the administration of the school or college should second the application and provide a supporting statement.

Description of Instruments and Facilities

Briefly list telescopes and also any freestanding buildings that house them, such as a dome or shed with sliding roof etc.

Details of Proposed Activities

Research:

Nights _____ Days _____ Average Group Size _____

Education:

Nights _____ Days _____ Average Group Size _____

Other:

Nights _____ Days _____ Average Group Size _____

Estimated total number of annual guests _____

Statements from Proposer and Seconded

A statement is required from the Proposer outlining why the Observatory should be listed as a Designated Observatory. In addition, a supporting statement is required from a 'Seconded' for the Application. This should be:

- For small private observatories, an officer from a recognised astronomical society testifying to the usefulness of the research program being undertaken and/or the community benefits of any educational activities*
- For school and college observatories, a senior officer of the administration of the school or college*

*These statements may be included below or may be separately emailed to **ASA Secretary John O'Byrne at john.obyrne@sydney.edu.au***

Proposer

Email _____

Phone _____

Supporting statement:

Secunder

Email _____

Phone _____

Supporting statement: