

Radio Quiet Zone in support of Australia's Bid to Host the SKA

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What is the origin of our universe? And how did it evolve? It is these fundamental questions which the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project aims to address. Expected to be built by 2020, the SKA will be the best imaging radio telescope array in the world. It will be more sensitive and able to survey the sky faster, than any other imaging radio telescope array.

A number of countries are bidding to host the SKA. A site ranking decision will be made by the International SKA Steering Committee this year. Australia's bid is being led by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

One factor affecting the site ranking decision is radio quietness, in support of which the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has been assisting CSIRO by working on a regulatory framework for a radio quiet zone (RQZ) at the proposed SKA site in Western Australia. The design of this regulatory framework merges technical and legal expertise, and involves consultation with both the public and other agencies. This poster introduces the SKA, sets out the regulatory options available to establish an RQZ, and flags the challenges for ACMA in designing this proposed zone.