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Page 1: Personal Details

Q1

Your name

Markus Hagenbuchner

Q2

Your organisation (leave blank if not applicable)

University of Wollongong

Q3

Are you making this submission on behalf of your organisation?

Yes, I am making this submission on behalf of my organisation**Q4**

Email address

markus@uow.edu.au

Q5

What best describes your interest in making a submission?

I am a researcher at an Australian university**Q6**

Submissions may be made public unless you request otherwise.

Respondent skipped this question**Q7**

What form of submission do you wish to make?

Provide my responses through the online survey

Page 2: Upload Response**Q8**

Respondent skipped this question

Please upload your submission.

Page 3: ERA and/or EI choice**Q9**

I want to answer questions on both ERA and EI

Please indicate whether you wish to answer questions on ERA and/or EI.

Page 4: ERA Policy /1**Q10**

To what extent is ERA meeting its objectives to:

Continue to develop and maintain an evaluation framework that gives government, industry, business and the wider community assurance of the excellence of research conducted in Australian higher education institutions.

Comment:

A large amount

ERA is imperfect

Provide a national stocktake of discipline level areas of research strength and areas where there is opportunity for development in Australian higher education institutions.

Comment:

A large amount

Is adapting too slowly for areas that develop rapidly (such as AI and other computing sciences)

Identify excellence across the full spectrum of research performance.

Comment:

A moderate amount

Too slow to adapt to emerging research outlets (i.e. new journals, conferences,...)

Identify emerging research areas and opportunities for further development.

Comment:

A moderate amount

ERA is slow to adapt to new areas.

Allow for comparisons of research in Australia, nationally and internationally, for all discipline areas.

A large amount

Q11

The ERA objectives are appropriate for meeting the future needs of its stakeholders.

Agree,

If you disagreed with the above statement, please explain your answer.:

The purpose of research is to change the landscape of knowledge. ERA is a reflection of knowledge acquisition from the recent past and does not provide a trajectory for future needs of its stakeholders except for the most conservative areas of research (i.e religious studies).

Page 5: ERA Policy /2

Q12

What impact has ERA had on:

the Australian university research sector as a whole

massive

individual universities

massive

researchers

massive

Other?

not known / unclear

Q13

How do you, or your organisation use ERA outcomes?

ERA is used to encourage staff to take certain research directions and publication avenues to strengthen the institution's rating in certain FOR codes as determined by the schools or faculties.

Q14

Agree

ERA outcomes are valuable to you or your organisation.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

How else could ERA outcomes be used?

Page 6: ERA Methodology /1

Q16

Agree

The current methodology meets the objectives of ERA.

Q17

Respondent skipped this question

What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of the overall ERA methodology?

Q18**Respondent skipped this question**

Does the discipline-specific approach for evaluating research quality (citation analysis or peer review for specific disciplines) continue to enable robust and comparable evaluation across all disciplines?

Q19

The citation analysis methodology for evaluating the quality of research is appropriate.

Agree,

Please explain your answer.:

The current citation methodology is reasonable.

Q20

What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of the citation analysis methodology?

Strengths

reflects reputation and impact

Weaknesses

time delayed reflection**Q21**

Can the citation analysis methodology be modified to improve the evaluation process while still adhering to the ERA Indicator Principles?

Yes,

If you answered 'Yes', please describe how the methodology could be improved.:

citation analysis could be conducted as a measure relative to the number of academic staff and/or with respect to years of service in academia of academic staff at any given institution.

Q22

The peer review methodology for evaluating the quality of research is appropriate.

Neither agree nor disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

The current peer review methodology introduces a subjective measure which can increase the likelihood of undervaluing emerging and niche areas.

Q23

What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of the peer review methodology?

Strengths

expert reviews are valuable

Weaknesses

subjective measure, conservative tendencies**Q24**

Can the peer review methodology be modified to improve the evaluation process while still adhering to the ERA Indicator Principles?

Yes,

If you answer 'Yes', please describe how the peer review methodology could be improved.:

It is difficult to predict which novel concepts would lead to high impact research. Selecting "visionary" and "progressive" reviewers could be considered for an improvement of the current process.

Page 7: ERA Methodology /2

Q25

The volume and activity indicators are still relevant to ERA.

Agree

Q26

The publishing profile indicator is still relevant to ERA.

Neither agree nor disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

Undervalues the importance of conference dissemination in areas such as sciences.

Q27

The research income indicators are still relevant to ERA.

Strongly agree,

Please explain your answer.:

We fully agree that the research income indicators are relevant to ERA.

Q28

The applied measures are still relevant to ERA.

Patents

Strongly Agree

Research commercialisation income

Comment:

Disagree

Research and commercialization follow two very different objectives. The interface between these two needs to be worked on.

Registered designs

Agree

Plant breeder's rights

Agree

NHMRC endorsed guidelines

Agree

Comment:

Depends on area of research. Not everything is relevant to health.

Page 8: ERA Methodology /3

Q29

The five-band ERA rating scale is suitable for assessing research excellence.

Strongly agree,

Please explain your answer.:

Five bands are sufficient. Though a percentage range (0-100) may be a suitable alternative.

Q30

Noting that 90% of units of evaluation assessed in ERA 2018 are now at or above world standard, does the rating scale need to be modified to identify research excellence?

No,

If you answered 'Yes', please explain how the rating scale can be modified to identify research excellence.:

This is a true reflection of the research impact being at a world leading standard.

Q31**Agree**

The ERA low volume threshold is appropriate.

Q32**Respondent skipped this question**

Are there ways in which the low volume threshold could be modified to improve the evaluation process?

Q33**By-line,**

What is the more appropriate method for universities to claim research outputs—staff census date or by-line?

Please explain your answer.:
Either is fine.

Q34**Respondent skipped this question**

What are the limitations of a census date approach?

Q35**Respondent skipped this question**

Would a by-line approach address these limitations?

Q36**Respondent skipped this question**

What are the limitations of a by-line approach?

Q37**Disagree,**

ERA adequately captures and evaluates interdisciplinary research.

Please explain your answer.:
Each research output is counted toward one specific FOR code.

Q38

If you disagreed with the previous statement, how could interdisciplinary research best be accommodated?

Research outputs to be counted towards a limited number of FOR codes. For such outputs, the first two digits of the FOR codes need to differ to reflect interdisciplinary.

Page 9: ERA Methodology /4

Q39

My institution would meet ERA low volume threshold in Indigenous studies at:

Two-digit
Comment:

Yes
unknown

Four-digit
Comment:

Yes
unkown

Q40

In ERA, the best approach for evaluating Indigenous Studies is (choose one):

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies by combining low volume disciplines into two Units of Evaluation (one unit comprising Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts disciplines and one unit comprising Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics disciplines)

Q41

What would be the advantages and/or disadvantages of your preferred approach for evaluating Indigenous studies in ERA?

Advantages

captures related cohorts of studies

Disadvantages

it is somewhat coarse

Page 10: ERA Process /1

Q42

ERA should move to an annual collection of data from universities.

Strongly agree,

Please explain your answer.:

Research is dynamic and rapidly changing. ERA needs to keep up accordingly. This is particularly important for fast moving fields.

Q43

What would be the advantages and/or disadvantages of an annual data collection.

Advantages

Adaption to fast moving fields.

Disadvantages

Workload implications.

Q44

In future ERA rounds, should the volume of outputs submitted for each unit of evaluation be published?

Yes,

Please explain your answer.:

All of the evidence (publications, citations, ...) is publicly available. So there is no reason to keep this a secret.

Q45

In future ERA rounds, research outputs should be published with their assignment to specific disciplines following completion of the round.

Strongly agree,

Please explain your answer.:

This would aid accountability.

Q46

What would be the advantages and/or disadvantages of publishing research outputs with their assignment to specific disciplines?

Advantages

Information sharing would lead to mutual benefits.

Q47

Respondent skipped this question

What other data do you think the ARC should publish following an ERA round? (Note - in ERA 2018 metadata included: Research output title, Research output type, reference year, outlet, publisher, ISBN, ERA round, and Institution)

Page 11: EI Policy /1

Q48

Considering that EI is a new assessment, to what extent is EI meeting its objectives to:

encourage greater collaboration between universities and research end-users, such as industry, by assessing engagement and impact?	A small amount
provide clarity to the Government and the Australian public about how their investments in university research translate into tangible benefits beyond academia?	A small amount
identify institutional processes and infrastructure that enable research engagement?	A moderate amount
promote greater support for the translation of research impact within institutions for the benefit of Australia beyond academia?	A moderate amount
identify the ways in which institutions currently translate research into impact?	A small amount

Page 12: EI Policy /2

Q49

Agree

The EI objectives are appropriate for the future needs of its stakeholders.

Q50

What impact has EI had on:

the Australian university research sector as a whole	moderate
Individual Universities	moderate
Researchers	moderate
Other sectors outside of academia?	unknown

Q51

How do you, or your organisation, use EI outcomes?

Encourage visibility of research activities.

Q52**Agree**

The EI outcomes are valuable to you or your organisation.

Q53**Respondent skipped this question**

How else could EI outcomes be used?

Page 13: EI Policy /3

Q54**Agree**

The current Engagement definition is appropriate.

Q55**Agree**

The current Impact definition is appropriate.

Q56**Agree**

The current end-user definition is appropriate.

Q57**Respondent skipped this question**

Are there any end-user categories excluded in the current definition of research end-user that you think should be included? Please explain your answer.

Q58**No**

Are there other key terms that need to be formally defined?

Page 14: EI Methodology /1

Q59**Yes**

Are the two-digit Field of Research codes the most appropriate method to define units of assessment for Engagement and Impact?

Q60**No**

Are there other ways to classify units of assessment in EI, for example SEO codes?

Q61**The same number as in EI 2018**

Should there be more or fewer units of assessment per university?

Q62**Agree**

The EI low-volume threshold should continue to be based on the number of research outputs submitted for ERA.

Q63**Respondent skipped this question**

If you disagree, how should eligibility for assessment in EI be determined?

Q64**Agree**

The low-volume threshold is set at the appropriate level.

Page 15: EI Methodology /2

Q65**Agree**

Overall, the engagement indicator suite for the assessment of research engagement is suitable.

Q66**Agree**

The cash support from research end-users using HERDC data is appropriate for the assessment of research engagement.

Q67**Agree**

The research commercialisation income is appropriate for the assessment of research engagement.

Q68**No**

Are there additional metrics that would be appropriate across many or all disciplines?

Q69**No**

Are there alternative metrics that would be appropriate across many or all disciplines?

Q70**No**

Should any of the current engagement metrics be redesigned?

Q71**Strongly agree**

The co-supervision of HDR students should be made an engagement indicator in future rounds of EI.

Q72

In your opinion, are any of the ERA applied measures appropriate indicators of research engagement in EI?

Patents	Yes
Research commercialisation income	No
Registered designs	Yes
Plant breeder's rights	Yes
NHMRC endorsed guidelines	No

Page 16: EI Methodology /3

Q73**Agree**

The narrative approach is suitable for describing and assessing research engagement with end-users.

Q74**Respondent skipped this question**

If you disagree with the narrative approach, what alternative approach could be used to replace the narrative? If you are suggesting indicators, please be specific.

Q75**Agree**

One engagement submission per broad discipline is sufficient for capturing the research engagement within that discipline.

Q76**Neither agree nor disagree**

The engagement narrative needs to be longer.

Q77**Neither agree nor disagree**

Additional evidence is needed within the narrative.

Page 17: EI Methodology /4

Q78**Agree**

The narrative approach is suitable for describing and assessing Impact.

Q79**Respondent skipped this question**

If you disagree with the narrative approach, what alternative approach could be used to replace the narrative? Please explain your answer. If you are suggesting indicators, please be specific.

Q80

Neither agree nor disagree,
Please explain your answer.:
Depends on discipline.

One impact study per broad discipline is sufficient for capturing the research impact within that discipline.

Q81**Neither agree nor disagree**

The impact narrative needs to be longer.

Q82**Agree**

There is need for additional evidence to be provided within the impact narrative.

Q83

Yes,
Please explain your answer.:
Degree of inter-institutional research collaborations, degree of international research collaborations, degree of research project leaderships.

In your opinion, are there quantitative indicators that could be used to measure the impact of research outside of academia?

Q84

If you answered 'yes' to the previous question, please name and describe the quantitative indicator/s, and the disciplines for which they are relevant.

Indicator 1

Degree of inter-institutional research collaborations

Indicator 2

Degree of international research collaborations

Indicator 3

Degree of research project leaderships

Page 18: EI Methodology /5

Q85**Agree**

The narrative approach is suitable for describing and assessing approach to impact.

Q86**Respondent skipped this question**

If you disagree with the narrative approach, what alternative approach could be used to replace the narrative? Please explain your answer. If you are suggesting indicators, please be specific.

Q87**Agree**

One approach to impact narrative per broad discipline is sufficient for capturing the activities within that discipline.

Q88**Neither agree nor disagree**

The approach to impact narrative needs to be longer.

Q89**Agree**

There is a need for additional evidence to be provided.

Q90**No**

Would there be benefit in combining engagement and approach to impact?

Page 19: EI Methodology /6

Q91**Agree**

The engagement rating scale is suitable for assessing research engagement.

Q92**Agree**

The descriptors for the engagement rating scale are suitable.

Q93**Agree**

The impact rating scale is suitable for assessing impact.

Q94**Agree**

The descriptors for the impact rating scale are suitable.

Q95**Agree**

The approach to impact rating scale is suitable for assessing approach to impact.

Q96**Agree**

The descriptions for the approach to impact rating scale are suitable.

Page 20: EI Methodology /7

Q97**Yes,**

Should EI continue to include an interdisciplinary impact study in addition to the two-digit Field of Research impact studies?

Please explain your answer.:
Yes, this is important!

Q98**Yes**

Should the EI low volume threshold be applied to the unit of assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research in EI 2024 with the option to opt in if threshold is not met?

Q99**Yes**

Should the unit of assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research include engagement in the next round of EI?

Page 21: Overarching Issues Common to ERA and EI

Q100

Other (please specify and explain your answer).:

How often should ERA occur?

Annual

Q101

What impact would a longer assessment cycle (i.e. greater than three years) have on the value of ERA results, particularly in the intervening years?

This could slow progressive and fast moving fields such as those in science.

Page 22: Overarching Issues Common to ERA and EI

Q102**Every three years**

How often should the EI assessment occur?

Q103**Respondent skipped this question**

What impact would a longer assessment cycle (i.e. greater than three years) have on the value of EI results, particularly in the intervening years?

Page 23: Overarching Issues Common to both ERA and EI

Q104**Strongly disagree**

ERA and EI should be combined into the one assessment.

Q105

What would be the advantages and/or disadvantages of ERA and EI being combined into the one assessment.

Advantages

none

Disadvantages

workload**Q106**

Are there other ways to streamline the processes to reduce the cost to universities of participating in ERA and EI?

Yes,

Please explain your answer.:

By making ERA submission an annual event this would create a regular rhythm that would allow the implementation of efficient processes.

Page 24: Overarching Issues Common to Both ERA and EI

Q107

In your view, what data sources could ERA utilise?

Incorporate journal impact factor.

Recognize reputation of organizers of new conferences or journals.

Q108

In your view, what are the most time consuming elements of the ERA submission?

Assigning papers to specific FOR codes.

Q109

Are there efficiencies that could be introduced?

Yes,

Please describe.:

Use metric based on impact factor of where publications appear. Normalize the metric with respect to number of academics at the institution or with respect to the summed years of research experience of all academics at the institution.

Page 25: Overarching Issues Common to Both ERA and EI**Q110****Respondent skipped this question**

In your view, what are the most time consuming elements of the EI submission?

Q111**Respondent skipped this question**

Are there efficiencies that could be introduced?

Page 26: Overarching Issues Common to Both ERA and EI**Q112**

ORCID iDs should be mandatory for ERA.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

ERA entries could become a subject of manipulation by a third party (the ORCID organization).

Q113

What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of mandatory ORCID iDs?

Disadvantages

ERA entries could become a subject of manipulation by a third party.

Q114**Agree**

The automatic harvesting of output data using ORCID iDs would streamline a university's submission process.

Q115

What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of automatic harvesting of output data using ORCID iDs?

Disadvantages

Not worth the risks.

Q116

DOIs should be mandatory for ERA.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

ERA entries could become a subject of manipulation by a third party (the International DOI Foundation).

Q117

What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of mandatory DOIs?

Disadvantages

ERA entries could become a subject of manipulation by a third party.

Page 27: Overarching Issues Common to Both ERA and EI

Q118

Respondent skipped this question

Are there other ways to collect data to reduce the cost and burden to universities of participating in ERA and EI whilst maintaining the robustness of the ERA and EI process?

Q119

Respondent skipped this question

What are the advantages and/or disadvantages?

Page 28: Additional Comments

Q120

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide any additional comments:
