

FASTS is Australia's peak science body, representing over 60 professional societies and 60,000 scientists. You are a member of FASTS through membership of your society. Our professional staff supports you, your society and the Australian scientific community in a range of ways. FASTS seeks the ongoing contribution of your Society to keep science at the forefront of the national agenda.

FASTS ongoing contribution to Australian science includes:

- *Science meets Parliament* – FASTS' annual flagship event, where more than 200 scientists have face-to-face meetings with Federal Parliamentarians on science issues
- Highlighting science with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet through FASTS' *ex-officio* membership of PMSEIC
- Organising forums and workshops on significant science issues
- Developing science policy at a high level and providing input to Parliamentary Committees, Government Departments and Government reviews and inquiries
- Assisting Member Societies to raise and develop issues
- Distributing information to Member Societies regularly and responding to feedback

2009 highlights include:

- Roll out of FASTS *Heads Up* Program including presentations on *Quantum Cryptography*, and *Emissions Reduction Targets and the Great Barrier Reef*
- National roadshow to gather responses to the Government's: *Powering Ideas: An Innovation Agenda for the 21st Century*
- Presentation to the PMSEIC on *Epidemics in a Changing World* and contribution to the PMSEIC foresighting committees
- Provision of examples of science success stories from FASTS' members to the Prime Minister
- Launch of major document in Parliament on *Women in Science in Australia: Maximising Productivity, Diversity and Innovation*
- Release of major reference document *When is Science Valid? – a Short Guide on How Science Works and When to believe it*
- Formation of the *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Alliance* and briefing to politicians, the media and the bureaucracy on the impact of climate change on the GBR
- Release of Policy Discussion Paper: *Giving Preparedness a Central Role in Science and Innovation Policy*
- Commissioned a study to investigate the changing nature of scientific and technological work
- Submissions to reviews including ARC Centres of Excellence and NHMRC Fellowship Consultation Paper

Value to FASTS' Members – Projects for 2010

- Support FASTS' Members in building sustainable societies
- Ongoing action to implement the *Women in Science* Report
- Contribute to the development of the Federal Government's Research Workforce Strategy
- Ongoing work on the changing nature of scientific and technological work
- Provide FASTS' Members with practical resources such as *Guidelines to Running Conferences*
- Publish a policy document addressing *Impediments to Collaboration*
- Publish a paper on the *Governance of Science*
- Investigate links between science education and industry-readiness
- Present further briefings under the *FASTS Heads Up Program* – **contact FASTS with your ideas**
- Hold *Science meets Parliament*: 9 & 10 March 2010 – **contact FASTS to attend**

For more information and to access the documents above please visit the FASTS' website: www.fasts.org

Dr Cathy Foley, President: Cathy.foley@csiro.au

Anna-Maria Arabia, Executive Director: annamaria.arabia@fasts.org Tel: 02 6257 2891 / 0412 940 921