

1.4	Governance	Node Leadership role description
	Responsible Officer	Scientific Officer
	Approved by	Director
	Approved and commenced	June 2011, updated August 2015
	Review by	September 2016

BACKGROUND

See Policy “1.3 Steering Committee – Terms of Reference” for details of the role of that committee. That Policy should be read in conjunction with this one. These terms of reference are drawn from the description of the Nodes in the IMOS Project Plans.

ROLE OF THE NODES

The Nodes play a critical role in IMOS and represent the scientific opinion of the marine research community. They provide the scientific rationale for IMOS, develop research goals and identify the need to obtain specific streams of data. The Nodes also regularly provide advice to the IMOS Office on assessment of the technical implementation of IMOS and scientific merit of research undertaken with IMOS data. The Nodes will be required to integrate regional research objectives into a national scientific perspective on marine-observing.

While Nodes are regional with regard to scientific area of interest, they are encouraged to be inclusive for members at a national scale and to promote a national approach to ocean observing.

NODES AND LEADERSHIP

IMOS has 6 nodes; a Bluewater and Climate Node, and 5 regional nodes. The leadership of the IMOS Nodes as at August 2015 is:

- Blue Water and Climate Node – Led by Steve Rintoul and Peter Strutton
- Queensland’s IMOS (Q-IMOS) – Led by Richard Brinkman and Russ Babcock
- Western Australian IMOS (WAIMOS) – Led by Gary Kendrick and Ming Feng
- Southern Australian IMOS (SAIMOS) – Led by Simon Goldsworthy and Sophie Leterme
- New South Wales IMOS (NSW-IMOS) – Led by Martina Doblin, Robin Robertson and Tim Ingleton
- South-East Australia IMOS (SEA-IMOS) – Led by Mark Baird, Vanessa Lucieer and Daniel Ierodiaconou

The Advisory Board considers it preferable to have a Leader and Deputy from different organisations, and that Node Leaders are not Facility Leaders or Advisory Board Members. Election of Node Leaders will be via agreement of the Node stakeholder reference group, following confirmation from the IMOS Director on suitability of nominees. Annual confirmation of Node leaders by the Node membership is required. Terms of leadership positions will be informed by IMOS funding timeframes.

SCOPE OF EACH NODES RESPONSIBILITY

The key responsibilities of the Nodes are:

- To represent the scientific opinion of the marine research community, provide scientific rationale for IMOS, develop research goals and identify the need to obtain specific streams of data.
- To support the development of a National Science Plan through the development of the regionally based science plans and national level planning and coordination
- To advise the IMOS office on assessment of the technical implementation of IMOS and scientific merit of research undertaken with IMOS data;
- To advise the office on priority future observations based on scientific merit, technical maturity and capability/capacity within the community to deliver/use the data.
- To support the office in tracking the use of IMOS data.
- Make nominations for, and approve the membership of the IMOS Advisory Board
- Promote use of IMOS data

STRUCTURE AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS OF THE NODES

The Nodes will have a formal structure including

- Node Sponsors (the institutions of the Node leadership that will provide funding for meetings, travel for national coordination and possibly other node-activity),
- elected officers (either two Node Leaders; or a Node Leader and Deputy Node Leader(s); all of whom will also be on the IMOS Steering Committee),
- a list of members,
- an agreed process for decision making (which is normally a majority of those responding to an issue canvassed or attending a meeting), and
- a 'Node reference group' to inform development of IMOS Science and Implementation Plans, who will also form a broader base of leadership within the Nodes

Nodes will meet twice per year, or more frequently if required or desired by the marine community. Node reference groups are expected to meet twice a year, or more frequently as required.

MEETINGS

The Nodes are an essential part of the forward planning, development and implementation of IMOS. As such, it is expected that a representative of the IMOS Office is invited to all Node meetings. Meetings will generally be face-to-face at a location suitable for the majority of the Node members to attend, however teleconference facilities (or other electronic means) may be used to hold meetings.

The Node Leadership is responsible for calling of meetings and workshops, arranging the venue and maintaining a list of the Node participants. Venue and catering costs of such meetings will be met by the Node Sponsor(s), with the meeting participants meeting their own travel and incidental costs.

The focus of Node meetings is primarily to promote the use and uptake of IMOS data, facilitate collaboration and integration across institutions, disciplines and datastreams, and engage with stakeholders and the broader marine community.

The Node Leaders may, if appropriate, hold a meeting with the stakeholder reference group to progress decision making on specific matters. However, any recommendations made must receive acceptance by the Node membership prior to informing other IMOS committees.

REPORTING

As part of IMOS reporting, the Node Leaders will be responsible for coordinating the Node submission to the IMOS annual progress report (due September each year) which documents the activities of the node in promoting the use of IMOS data, and publications, research projects and postgraduate students using IMOS data. The office will provide a pre-populated template of known information which the node leaders can check and add to.

TRAVEL

In addition to the IMOS Steering Committee Meetings (see policy 1.3), Node leaders are expected to represent the Node at the IMOS annual meeting held over 3 days in February/March of each year. The IMOS office will pay for accommodation and meeting costs. Travel will need to be covered by the Node Sponsors.

***Versioning:** Updated August 2011 following discussion by the Steering Committee for acceptance by the Advisory Board at the September 2011 meeting. Minor update done August 2015.*