

ERA 2012 Outcomes – IRU

Note this paper refers to four digit Fields of Research (FoRs) only throughout.

Overall Outcomes

Overall IRU ERA results were very strong compared to 2010. The number of assessments at level 5 more than doubled for the network and the number at level 3 and above increased by 19%. The proportion of all assessments at level 3 and above increased from 62% in 2010 to 74% in 2012.

Table 1 – ERA Outcomes 2010-2012 – All IRU

| Year | Fields of Research (FoRs) Ratings | | | FoRs assessed | FoRs rated 3 or above | % FoRs rated 3 or above |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 5 | 4 | 3 | | | |
| 2010 | 20 | 52 | 113 | 299 | 185 | 62% |
| 2012 | 42 | 51 | 127 | 298 | 220 | 74% |
| Change | 110% | -2% | 12% | 0% | 19% | 12%pt |

Results for individual members were varied. Assessments at level 5 increased for 6 members, as did the number and proportion of assessments at level 3 and above. The number of assessed FoRs was relatively consistent across the network.

Table 2 – ERA Outcomes 2012 – All IRU by Member

| Provider | Fields of Research (FoRs) Ratings | | | FoRs assessed | FoRs rated 3 or above | % FoRs rated 3 or above |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 5 - Well above world standard | 4 - Above world standard | 3 - At world standard | | | |
| Charles Darwin University | 1 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 10 | 71% |
| Flinders University | 3 | 5 | 21 | 39 | 29 | 74% |
| Griffith University | 1 | 11 | 26 | 60 | 38 | 63% |
| James Cook University | 3 | 11 | 19 | 50 | 33 | 66% |
| La Trobe University | 9 | 7 | 22 | 53 | 38 | 72% |
| Murdoch University | 7 | 5 | 16 | 33 | 28 | 85% |
| University of Newcastle | 18 | 9 | 17 | 49 | 44 | 90% |
| IRU TOTAL | 42 | 51 | 127 | 298 | 220 | 74% |

Outcomes by Cluster

Clusters used in ERA assessments are as follows:

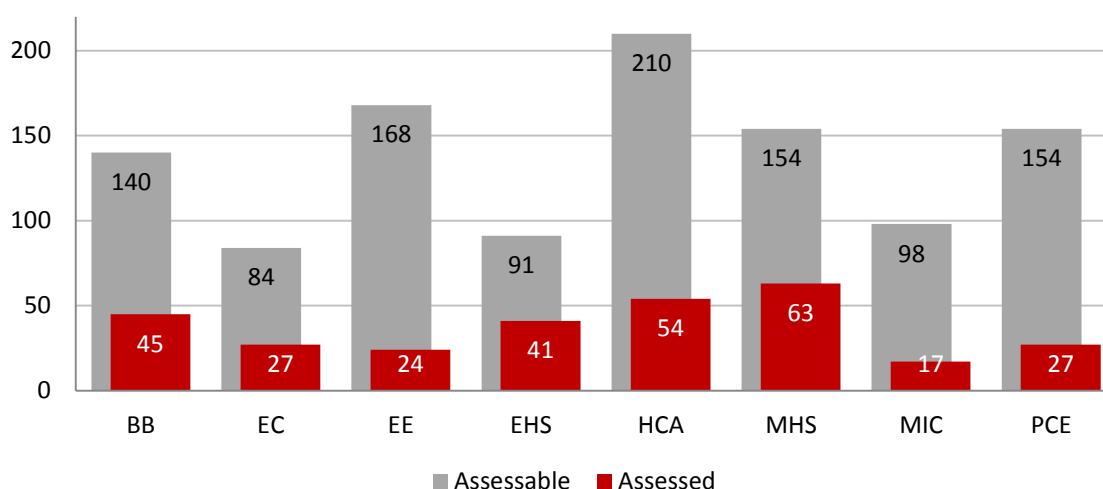
| | |
|-----|--|
| BB | Biological and Biotechnological Sciences |
| EC | Economics and Commerce |
| EE | Engineering and Environmental Sciences |
| EHS | Education and Human Society |
| HCA | Humanities and Creative Arts |
| MHS | Medical and Health Sciences |
| MIC | Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences |
| PCE | Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences |

For the IRU, the largest number of assessments was undertaken in Medical and Health Sciences.

Despite Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences having the lowest number of assessments (17), this was still substantially higher than the number in 2010 (6). This is likely due to a change in assessment methodology in computing sciences from citation analysis to peer review.

In the table below, ‘assessable’ refers to the total number of potentially assessable FoRs for the IRU as a whole for that cluster (that is, the total number of FoRs per cluster multiplied by seven). Education and Human Society had the highest proportion of assessments made (45% of the possible total) while Engineering and Environmental Sciences had the lowest (14%).

Chart 1 – ERA 2012 Assessments by Cluster – All IRU



There are significant variances in the average rating by cluster. Excluding non-assessed FoRs, the strongest result was for Engineering and Environmental Sciences (average rating 3.67), with Economics and Commerce having the lowest average rating (2.33).

All but two assessments in Biological and Biotechnological Sciences were rated at 3 or above, accounting for 96% of assessments in this cluster. Less than half of assessments in Economics and Commerce (44%) were at 3 or above. For all other clusters, more than half of all assessments were at 3 or above.

Medical and Health Sciences had the highest number of 5 ratings (16) but also accounted for half of all 1 ratings (6). There were 8 ratings of 5 in Engineering and Environmental Sciences and no ratings of 1.

Table 3 – ERA 2012 Outcomes by Cluster – All IRU

| Cluster | Fields of Research (FoRs) Ratings | | | FoRs assessed | FoRs rated 3 or above | % FoRs rated 3 or above |
|---|-----------------------------------|----|----|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | 5 | 4 | 3 | | | |
| Biological and Biotechnological Sciences | 7 | 15 | 21 | 45 | 43 | 96% |
| Economics and Commerce | 0 | 1 | 11 | 27 | 12 | 44% |
| Engineering and Environmental Sciences | 8 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 18 | 75% |
| Education and Human Society | 2 | 0 | 24 | 41 | 26 | 63% |
| Humanities and Creative Arts | 2 | 6 | 33 | 54 | 41 | 76% |
| Medical and Health Sciences | 17 | 12 | 19 | 63 | 48 | 76% |
| Mathematical, Info and Computing Sciences | 1 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 10 | 59% |
| Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences | 5 | 9 | 8 | 27 | 22 | 81% |

Chart 2 – ERA 2012 Ratings (3-5) by Cluster – All IRU

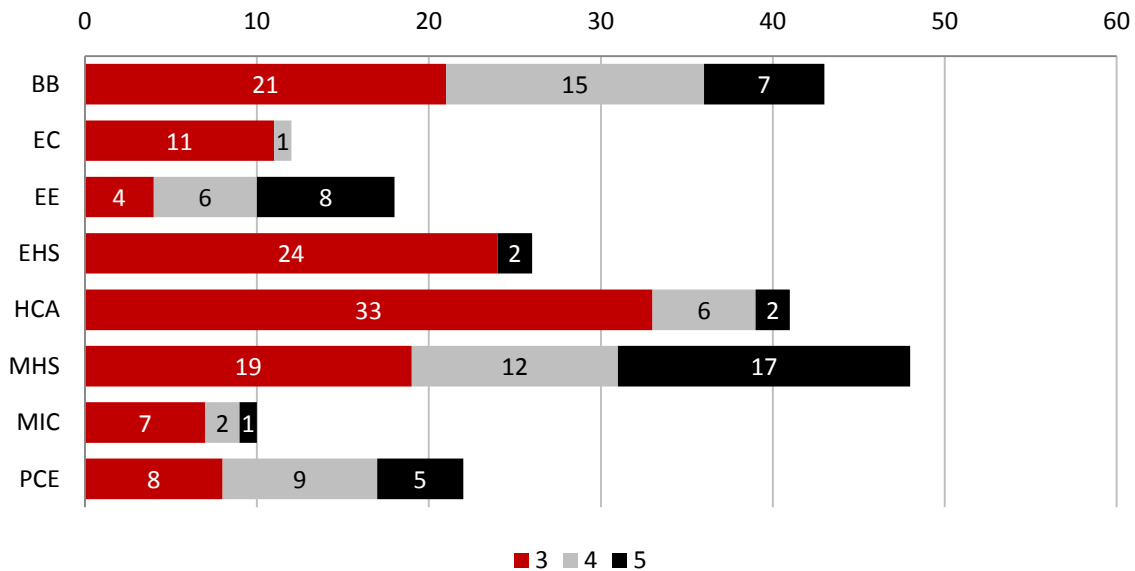


Chart 3 – ERA 2012 Average Ratings by Cluster – All IRU

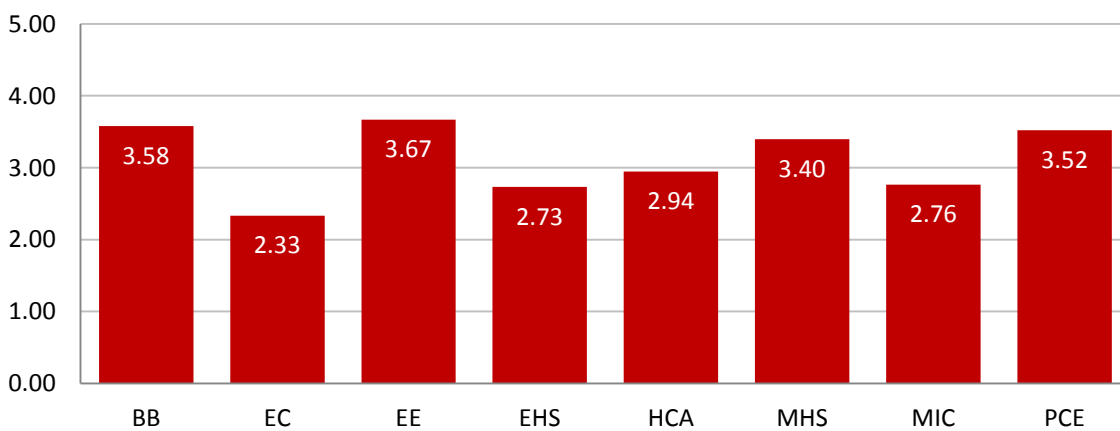
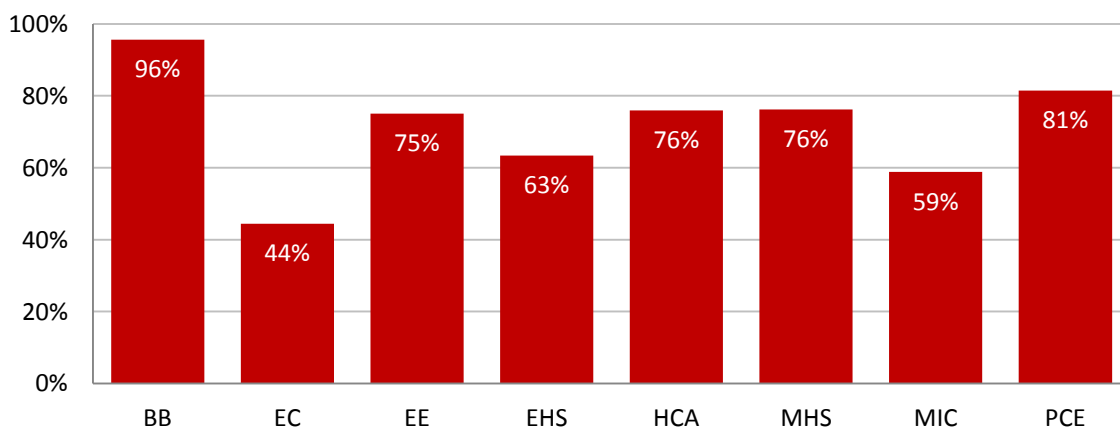


Chart 4 – ERA 2012 Proportion of Ratings at 3 and above by Cluster – All IRU



Areas of Common Strength

In 20 fields four or more IRU members were rated as world standard or above. In Ecology and Zoology six members were rated as world standard or above. Three members were rated as world standard or above in an additional 15 fields.

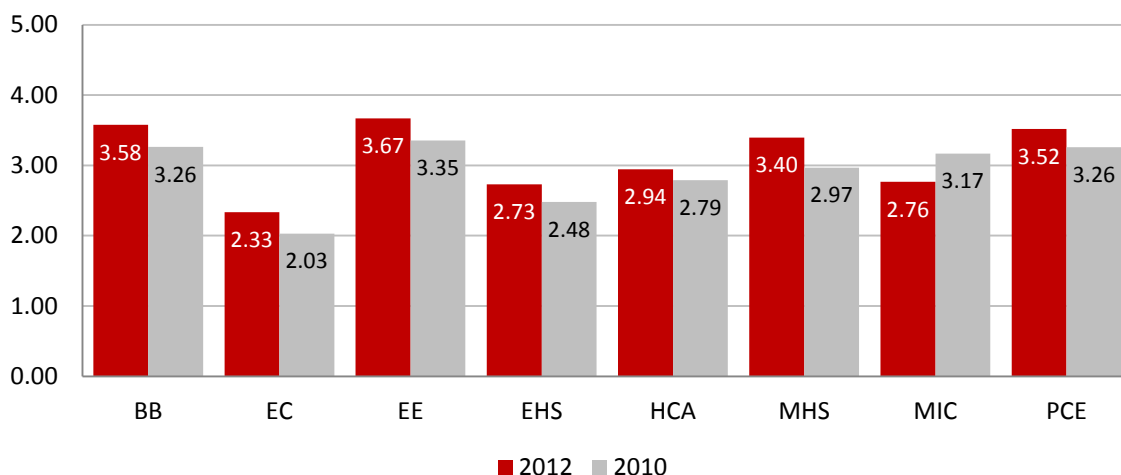
Table 4 – ERA 2012 Fields with four or more IRU members rated at 3 or above

| Field | Charles Darwin | Flinders | Griffith | James Cook | La Trobe | Murdoch | Newcastle | Total 3+ |
|---|----------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-----------|----------|
| 406 Physical Geography and Env't Geoscience | - | 3 | 3 | 4 | - | - | 5 | 4 |
| 502 Environmental Science and Management | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | - | 4 | - | 4 |
| 602 Ecology | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | - | 6 |
| 604 Genetics | - | - | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| 605 Microbiology | 3 | - | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 | - | 5 |
| 607 Plant Biology | - | 4 | - | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| 608 Zoology | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| 1103 Clinical Sciences | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| 1107 Immunology | - | - | 3 | 4 | - | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| 1108 Medical Microbiology | 4 | - | 4 | 5 | - | 5 | - | 4 |
| 1109 Neurosciences | - | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | - | 5 | 5 |
| 1110 Nursing | - | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | - | 4 | 5 |
| 1303 Specialist Studies In Education | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| 1606 Political Science | - | 3 | 5 | - | 3 | 3 | - | 4 |
| 1608 Sociology | - | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| 1701 Psychology | - | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 1801 Law | - | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | - | 5 |
| 1904 Performing Arts and Creative Writing | - | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | - | 3 | 4 |
| 2005 Literary Studies | - | 3 | - | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| 2103 Historical Studies | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 |

Comparisons to 2010

The average rating improved for all clusters in 2012 with the exception of Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences.

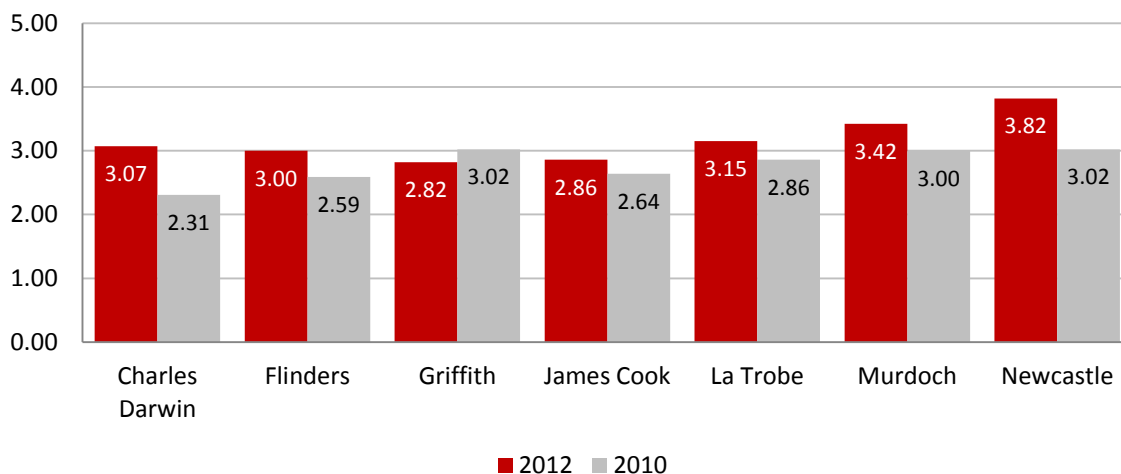
Chart 5 – ERA 2010 and 2012 Average Ratings by Cluster – All IRU



Note: The chart above applies the 2012 cluster framework to 2010 results. There were differences in the clusters for a small number of fields in 2010.

Similarly, the average rating increased for six members, with particularly significant increases for Newcastle and Charles Darwin.

Chart 6 – ERA 2010 and 2012 Average Ratings by Member – All IRU



Of the 298 assessed FoRs in 2012, 248 (83%) were also assessed in 2010. Of these 248, 31% were rated at a higher level than in 2010, 17% at a lower level, and the majority (52%) were unchanged.

Fields rated at 2 in 2010 were the most likely to improve.

Chart 7 – ERA Changes in Assessment 2010-2012 – All IRU

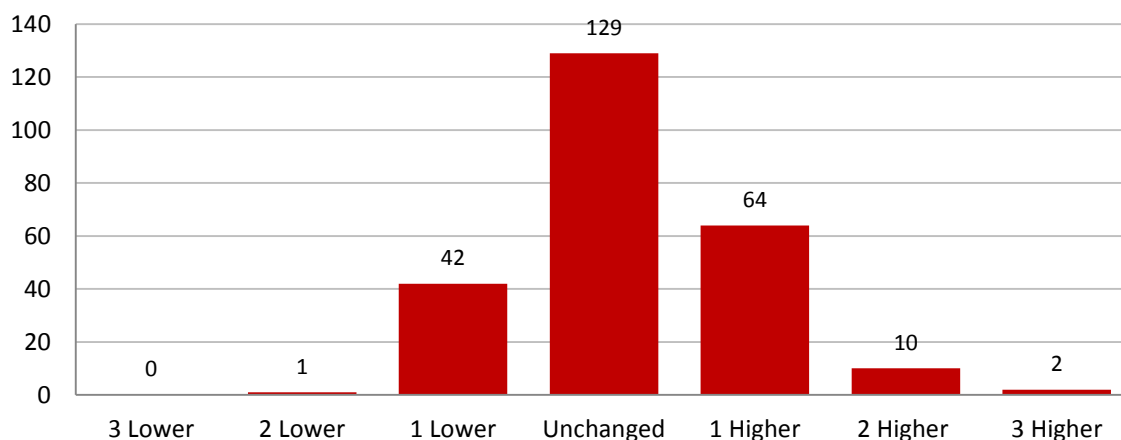


Chart 8 – ERA Change in Assessment 2010-2012 by 2010 Rating – All IRU

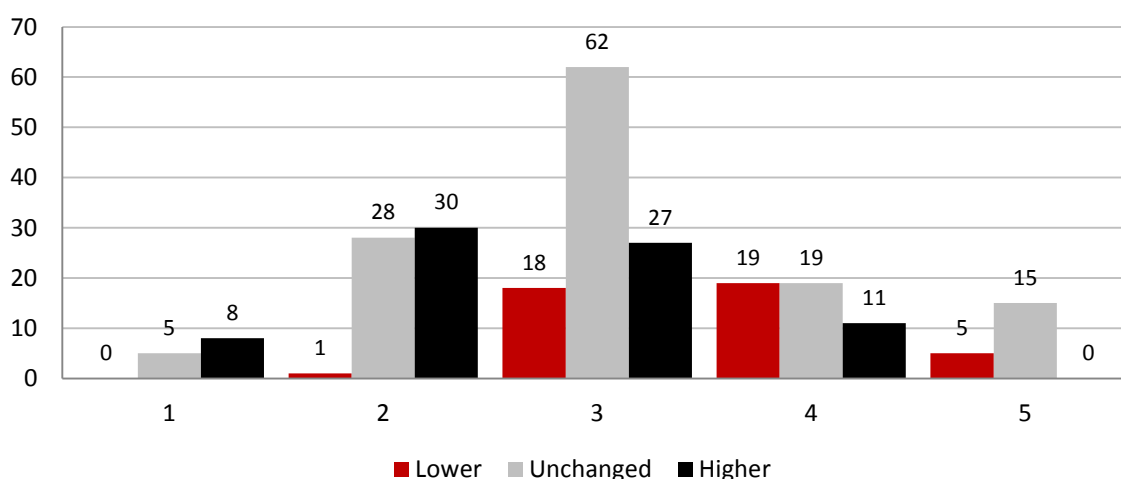
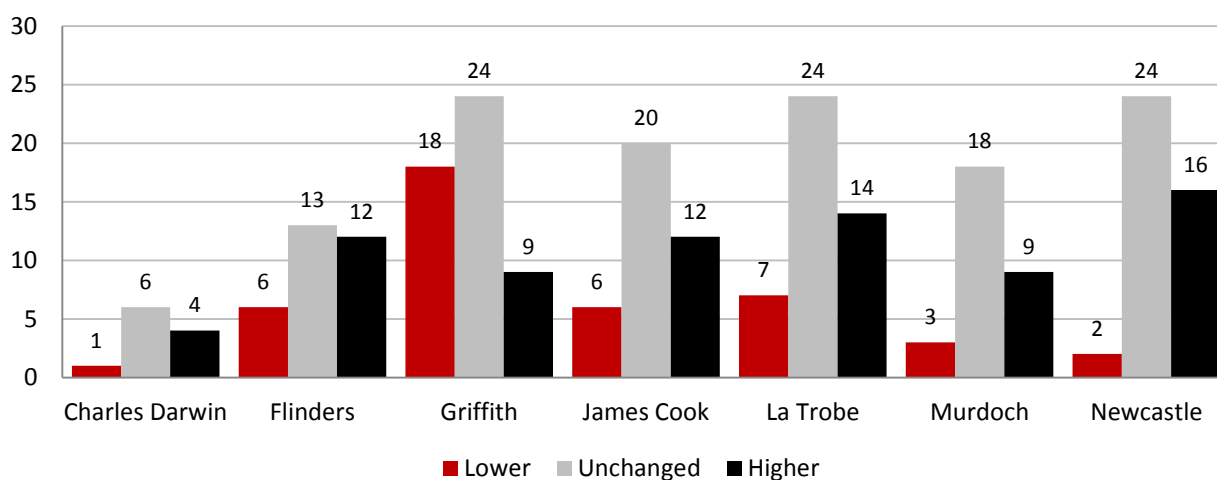


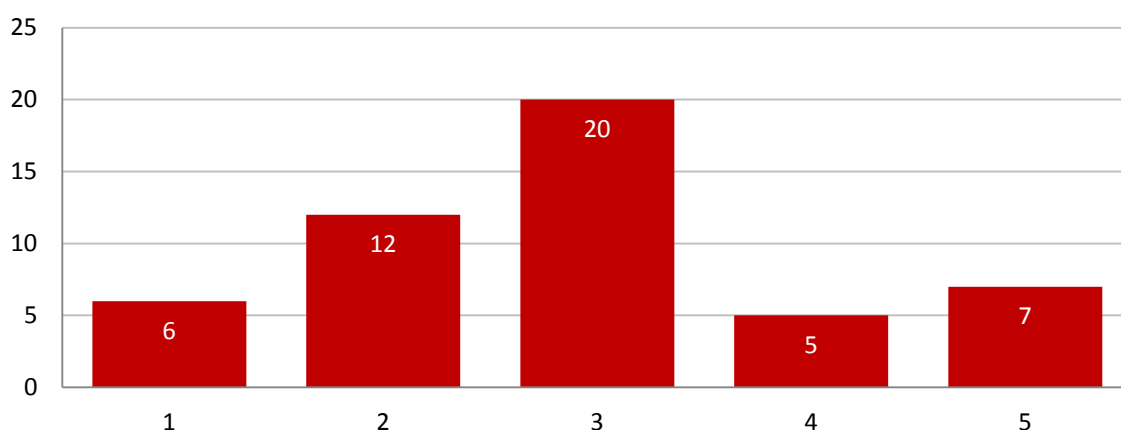
Chart 9 – ERA Change in Assessment 2010-2012 by Member – All IRU



A number of fields that were assessed in 2010 were not assessed in 2012, and vice versa. In total, seven fields that were not assessed in 2010 were rated at 5 in 2012. These seven were spread across five members (2 each for James Cook and La Trobe and one each for Newcastle, Flinders and Murdoch).

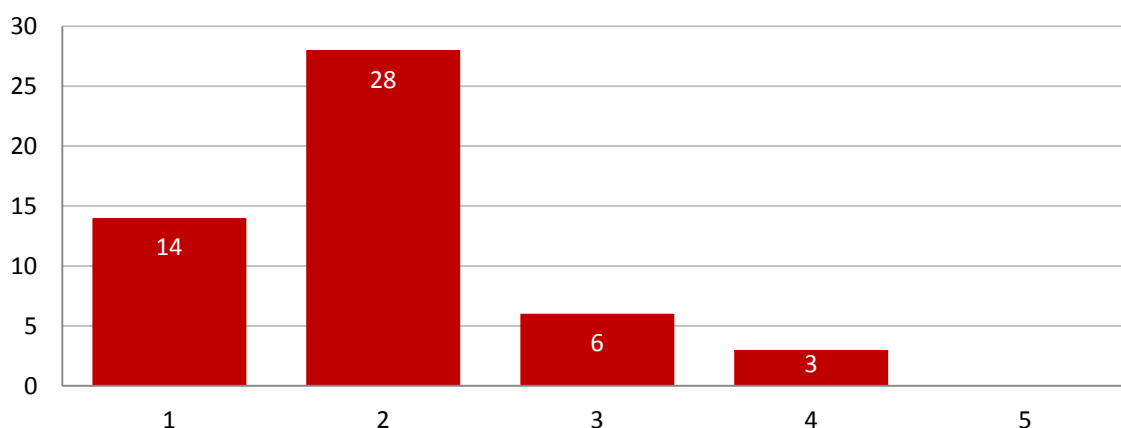
Fields not assessed in 2010 that were assessed in 2012 came from all clusters, with the largest groups being Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences (11) and Engineering and Environmental Sciences (10).

Chart 10 – ERA 2012 Results for Fields not Assessed in 2010 – All IRU



Of the fields not assessed in 2012 that were assessed in 2010, the majority were rated at 2 in 2010. The largest drop in fields assessed was in the Humanities and Creative Arts cluster (13) followed by the Economics and Commerce cluster (12). The drop for both these clusters is likely driven by the increased peer review assessment threshold.

Chart 11 – ERA 2010 Results for Fields not Assessed in 2012 – All IRU



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Grant Kennett
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