



National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group Meeting 7 – 4 September 2024

Update from the Chair

The seventh National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group (NRIAG) meeting was held in Sydney on Wednesday, 4 September 2024.

Discussions commenced with updates from the Department of Education, Australian Research Council, the Department of Industry Science and Resources and Australia's Chief Scientist on initiatives relevant to the work of the Group. These included the recently released National Science and Research Priorities, Australia's Economic Accelerator, the Trailblazer Initiative, progress on the National Quantum Strategy, and the ARC policy review. An update was also received on the International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI), being hosted in Brisbane in December 2024. It was noted that the [ICRI website](#) is live and online registration is now available, with further information to follow regarding in person events.

NRIAG discussion covered activities of the National Digital Research Infrastructure Working Group ([NDRI WG](#)) to develop the NDRI Investment Plan. It was noted that the Working Group would soon be commencing a blend of targeted and open consultation, with a Draft Investment Plan later to be available for feedback.

Discussions also covered the approach to developing the strategies and investment plans for the other National Research Infrastructure Step Change areas outlined in the 2021 NRI Roadmap: Translation Research Infrastructure; Environment and Climate; and Research Collections. The NRIAG considered the timings of the forward workplans for each of these areas and emphasised the importance of ensuring that future work is guided by rigorous processes, including capturing the views of a broad range of stakeholders.

The NRIAG endorsed a proposal to support NRI Workforce development.

The NRIAG received an update on planning for the 2026 Roadmap, identifying areas of work to be undertaken in the coming months. As part of that topic, the meeting continued discussions from the previous NRIAG meeting on possible refinement of the NRI Principles and NRI Investment Principles that were detailed in the 2021 Roadmap.

In addition to the NRIAG meeting, members visited Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) facility at Lucas Heights, which is funded directly by the Australian Government through the Industry portfolio, but also receives some support from the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) as well as external

revenue. The visit allowed NRIAG members to get a firsthand look at a landmark facility and to meet some of its skilled and enthusiastic staff.

The eighth NRIAG meeting is scheduled for December 2nd, 2024, in Brisbane. At this meeting, the NRIAG will consider a detailed 2025 plan for the 2026 NRI Roadmap and progress work on the remaining Step Changes.