



# 2026 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap

## Purpose

This paper provides a high-level outline of the 2026 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap (Roadmap) development process.

The development of this Roadmap will be led by the National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Advisory Group,<sup>1</sup> supported by the Department of Education. The Roadmap will be presented to the Government for its consideration and to guide research infrastructure decision making by the end of 2025.

## Background

Since 2006, approximately every five years, an expert group develops an NRI Roadmap. With the establishment of the NRI Advisory Group in late 2022, the terms of reference allocated this responsibility to the Group.

Roadmaps set the strategic direction and vision for Australian NRI over a 5-10 year horizon, to ensure Australian research infrastructure remains relevant and responsive to change. Each Roadmap acts as a key policy document, providing guidance to government on actions to enable researchers to maintain excellence, increase innovation and address emerging challenges.

## The 2026 Roadmap

The next Roadmap will build on a history of successful Roadmaps, in particular the 2016<sup>2</sup> and 2021<sup>3</sup> Roadmaps.

The 2026 Roadmap is intended to identify emerging changes in the research environment over the next 5-10 years, including key drivers in research practice and in the translation of research into practical outcomes, major research themes, and relevant priority research infrastructure.

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<sup>1</sup> [The National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.education.gov.au/national-research-infrastructure/resources/2016-national-research-infrastructure-roadmap>

<sup>3</sup> [2021 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

The Roadmap will take into account relevant national initiatives, such as the National Science and Research Priorities, the emerging work on the Strategic Examination of Research and Development, and the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)'s advice to the Australian Government on Australia's Science Toolkit.

## Roadmap scope

In building on previous Roadmaps, the 2026 Roadmap will consider where there is a need to evolve the previously adopted approaches to ensure they remain appropriate for the anticipated circumstances.

This will include review of the relevance and currency of the NRI Principles and NRI Investment Principles and how they can continue to support the identification of priority research and essential research infrastructure; whether there is a need to identify further 'Step Changes'; and how national research infrastructure is governed and managed.

## Consultation and Development Process

The NRI Advisory Group will lead the work to develop the Roadmap. The development process will include engagement with a wide variety of stakeholder groups including, but not limited to, research infrastructure users and providers, research infrastructure host institutions, co-investors and those looking to benefit from Australia's research.

The development process is expected to include:

- In early 2025, an open consultation phase where stakeholders will have the opportunity to present their general views.
- Later in 2025, targeted discussions on identified topics, possibly supported by release of a discussion paper seeking comment on specific themes.
- In the second half of 2025, release of a draft Roadmap for feedback.

## Further information and updates

Further information and updates will be provided on the [Roadmap webpage](#).

