

## Terms of Reference

In 2014, the National Commission of Audit (NCOA) found that:

*Quality research infrastructure is a critical component of Australia's research and development system and, since 2001, the Commonwealth Government has provided a series of funding programmes for large-scale research infrastructure.*

The NCOA recommended that:

*The Government take a more strategic, whole of government approach to the funding of research and development, including by committing to ongoing funding for critical research infrastructure in Australia, informed by a reassessment of existing research infrastructure provision and requirements.*

In its 2014–15 Budget, the Australian Government has provided an additional \$150 million in 2015–16 to continue the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy. In August 2014, the Minister for Education announced that, in line with the NCOA's constructive approach, a positive review of research infrastructure would begin in the coming months.

The Minister has established the Research Infrastructure Review to undertake this review.

1. To undertake an assessment of existing research infrastructure provision and requirements, that will inform future commitment to ongoing funding for critical research infrastructure in Australia.
2. To examine the role of public funding, including from the Commonwealth, in supporting the provision of research infrastructure in maximising the use of existing funding.
3. To examine the operating costs and priorities of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy and its need for ongoing investment required from the Commonwealth.
4. To examine alternative arrangements for leveraging funding for the development and ongoing operations of research infrastructure, such as through partnerships with the private sector and the appropriate application of cost recovery.

The Review will be conducted in close consultation with the research sector, including research infrastructure facilities, universities, research institutions, publicly funded research agencies, state and territory governments, industry and other relevant government and non-government parties.

The Research Infrastructure Review will provide a final report by mid-2015 to the Minister for Education and Training.

The Research Infrastructure Review will be supported by the Department of Education and Training.