



National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group Meeting 5 – 6 March 2024

Update from the Chair

The fifth National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group (NRIAG) meeting was held in Perth on Wednesday, 6 March 2024.

The agenda items for the meeting covered further steps on implementation of the 2021 National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap, discussion on identified key and emerging issues - including the next NRI Roadmap - and briefing on key Government initiatives relevant to NRI.

Discussion on progressing implementation of the 2021 NRI Roadmap covered processes and activities in support of the Step Changes, and key elements towards an NRI Workforce Strategy. Discussion on the next NRI Roadmap, currently planned to be provided to the Government in 2026, touched on possible activities and processes.

The NRIAG had an informative presentation from CSIRO, the delivery partner of the Department of Education for the International Conference on Research Infrastructure ([ICRI](#)) to be held in Brisbane December 3-5, 2024. The NRIAG recognised the policy and practical benefits that can follow from bringing together research, research infrastructure facilities and policy makers to discuss pressing global challenges, particularly given the potential inclusion of First Nations engagement as an ICRI theme. The NRIAG also noted that ICRI could provide an opportunity for increased engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.

During the meeting, the NRIAG continued discussion on other vital topics:

- the challenges and sustainability in the current supply of animal models to meet researcher demand, and pathways relevant to the next NRI Roadmap process.
- further steps towards a Collections strategy.
- the potential use of AI, illustrated by case studies across three fields, how the NDRI Strategy and other activities might set 'guard rails'.
- key elements related to an NRI workforce strategy, including potential initiatives, and establishing a working group to assist in shaping future consultations.

- An updated forward Advisory Group workplan to be available on the website

The NRIAG also received updates on relevant major initiatives within Government, including an overview of the final report of Australian Universities Accord and associated Government processes, and the strategic review of the Australian Research Council's National Competitive Grants Program.

The sixth NRIAG meeting is scheduled for June 2024 in Adelaide. At this meeting, the NRIAG will consider the progress in implementing the range of Step Changes from the 2021 Roadmap and the NRI Workforce Strategy. The NRIAG will also consider more detailed planning for the next NRI Roadmap.

