



National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group Meeting 13 (9 July 2026)

Update from the Chair

The thirteenth National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group (NRIAG) meeting was held on Thursday 9 July 2026.

The meeting commenced with updates from the Department of Education that provided an overview of recent National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) funding announcements, including outcomes from the 2025 Step Change and 2026 Capability Gap funding rounds. Members welcomed the significant investment in research infrastructure capabilities.

The Group also received an update from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) on the implementation of the Australian Government's AI and data centres agenda. This included progress on the National AI Plan, establishment of the AI Safety Institute, initiatives to support AI commercialisation through Cooperative Research Centres Programs, and the Expectations of data centres and AI infrastructure developers to improve access to computing resources for Australian researchers and industry. Members noted the increasing importance of AI and advanced computing capabilities for Australia's future research infrastructure landscape.

A key focus of the meeting was an update from the Expert Working Group (EWG) responsible for delivery of the 2026 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap. Next steps will involve the Advisory Group reviewing for release the Exposure Draft at its next meeting. That release will be followed by a period of public consultation and stakeholder engagement prior to finalisation of a Roadmap for submission to Government later in the year.

Members discussed the significant program of work associated with finalising the 2026 Roadmap and noted the important role of consultation with the research, industry and government sectors in shaping the final document.

The next NRIAG meeting will be held on 9 September 2026.