Australian Government
Department of Education

2026 NRI Roadmap Update

October 2026

October marked another significant milestone for the 2026 National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap with the conclusion of the public consultation period for the NRI Exposure Draft consultation survey. We thank all stakeholders who took the time to provide submissions and share their perspectives to help inform the future direction of Australia's NRI system.

Ongoing consultations

Consultations continued throughout October to support development of the Roadmap, with engagement across a broad range of stakeholders to gather feedback on the Exposure Draft and future directions for Australia's NRI system.

As part of the consultation process, the Expert Working Group (EWG) hosted a second virtual Roadmap Town Hall webinar on 6 October, providing stakeholders with an opportunity to learn more about the Exposure Draft consultation process and its development. The EWG undertook range of targeted consultation sessions with leaders from across the research sector and met regularly, focusing on stakeholder feedback and the next stages of Roadmap development.

Exposure Draft

The 2026 NRI Roadmap process reached an important milestone with the completion of public consultation on the Exposure Draft on Monday 26 October 2026.

More than 270 submissions were received from a diverse range of contributors across Australia's research and innovation ecosystem. Contributors included universities, industry representatives, research organisations, peak bodies, government entities and other interested stakeholders.

Submissions received through the consultation process are now being considered by the EWG and will help inform the next steps towards the 2026 NRI Roadmap, ahead of its review by the National Research Advisory Group in November, and then submission to Government by the end of 2026.