

**Please note:** the substantive content of the 2026 NRI Roadmap Survey begins at Question 20 (with prior questions dealing with administrative and other information).

As such all submissions that are published include the responses submitted from Question 20 onwards only.

Q20.

**Part 2: Research themes**

2.1 NRI comprises the assets, facilities and associated expertise to support leading-edge research and innovation in Australia and is accessible to publicly and privately funded users across Australia and internationally. We are seeking your input on possible directions for future national-level investment - i.e., where the requirements are of such scale and importance that national-level collaboration and coordination are essential.

The [2021 Roadmap](#) used a challenge framework to support NRI planning and investment. With this in mind, consider likely future research trends in the next 5 - 10 years, and with respect to one or more of the 8 challenge areas identified in the 2021 Roadmap as listed below:

- describe emerging research directions and the associated critical research infrastructure requirements that are either not currently available at all, or not at sufficient scale and
- describe current national infrastructure requirements that you anticipate will no longer fit the definition of NRI in 5-10 years.

Do not limit your commentary to NCRIS funded capabilities.

Q21.

**Resources Technology and Critical Minerals Processing**

Q22.

**Food and Beverage**

Q23.  
**Medical Products**

Q24.  
**Defence**

Q25.  
**Recycling and Clean Energy**

Q26.  
**Space**

Q27.  
**Environment and Climate**

Q28.  
**Frontier Technologies and Modern Manufacturing**

Q29.

2.2 The 2024 statement of National Science and Research Priorities (NSRPs) includes outcomes linked to each priority to assist in identifying critical research needed in the next 5 to 10 years.

Consider the priority statements and, with respect to one or more of the 5 priority areas as listed below:

- describe emerging research directions and the associated critical research infrastructure requirements that are either not currently available at all, or
- not at sufficient scale and describe current national infrastructure requirements that you anticipate will no longer fit the definition of NRI in 5-10 years.

Do not limit your commentary to NCRIS funded capabilities, and where relevant, refer to the underpinning outcomes and research identified in the NSRPs document.

Q30.

### **Transitioning to a net zero future**

Q31.

### **Supporting healthy and thriving communities**

Q32.

### **Elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders knowledge systems**

Q33.

### **Protecting and restoring Australia's environment**

Q34.

## Building a secure and resilient nation

Q35.

2.3 The case for a new NRI capability, or enhancements to existing capabilities, typically emerges through advocacy from research communities clustering around rigorously identified needs and goals. Such a concept could respond to a requirement for novel or expanded capacity within a domain, or across domains, and must be such that it could only be made available with national-level investment.

If you have identified such a requirement, briefly describe the need, the proposed infrastructure capability, the medium-term goals, impacted research communities, and the timeframe over which you advocate its establishment. Your response can include links to relevant existing reports.

Q36.

### Part 3: Industry perspectives

**This section is seeking input specifically from industry-based respondents. Other respondents can skip this section.**

Recommendation 6 of the [2021 Roadmap](#) related to improvements in industry engagement with NRI. To complement work on this topic that has occurred since then, we are seeking additional advice on NRI requirements as perceived by current or potential industry-based users.

Q37.

3.1 Have you (or your organisation) interreacted with or used Australia's NRI?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q38.

3.2 If so, please briefly outline the NRI capabilities you (or your organisation) have interacted with or used. Do not limit your response to NCRIS capabilities.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

Q39.

3.3 Please indicate your (one or more) primary reasons for interacting with NRI:

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

Q40.

3.4 If you answered no, please indicate your (one or more) primary reasons:

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

Q41.

## Part 4: Other comments

4.1 Please elaborate on any of your above responses or add any other comments relevant to the development of the 2026 Roadmap. Your response can include reference or links to existing reports that you recommend be considered during the 2026 Roadmap development process.

Concerning Research Priorities: No. 3 Elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders knowledge systems The 2021 Roadmap identified the gap between Indigenous and non Indigenous participation in so many key areas of research and made this gap a national priority. Open Access Australasia welcomed section 5.6 of the 2021 Roadmap Indigenous knowledges and NRI and commended the recognition that “strong Indigenous governance” must be the foundation of any platform for storage and access of all research done by or pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance must take priority over requirements to make research and data open with regards to all such research. Further investment in access controls and protocols for the protection of ICIP can help support these principles. There are some excellent infrastructure initiatives already in place, such as AIATSIS’ Indigenous-governed data repository Yumi Sabe, or the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Archive (ATSIDA) hosted at UTS. Dedicated funding pipelines for Indigenous-led projects, including scholarships and grants for early-career researchers is required to guarantee the continued growth of such vital infrastructures. Secure and appropriate tools for Indigenous-led research must also be included if the aim of elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders knowledge systems is to be achieved. In all planning and implementation engagement with communities must come first and foremost. Cultural competence training programs to enable respectful and appropriate interactions needs to be a part of the process of engagement and inclusion. Other Comments Please see our full response at <https://oaaustralasia.org/response-to-the-consultation-on-the-national-research-infrastructure-2026-roadmap/>