

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.

NSQN

Q39.

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

☒ For expertise or advice

☐ Access to research resources or products

- ☐ Access to equipment for research
- ☒ Access to equipment for operational reasons
- ☐ Help in translating research
- ☐ Access to data
- ☐ Support for clinical trials
- ☐ Other (please specify)

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.

The National Space Qualification Network (NSQN) is an essential enabler of Australia's growing space industry by being a one-stop-shop for space qualification providing centralised, industry-accessible testing infrastructure spread across various Australian nodes. It ensures that Australian researchers and space companies can qualify spacecraft, payloads, and components domestically, eliminating the need for costly overseas alternatives. The demand for a streamlined, industry-aligned approach has never been greater. Australia's space sector is rapidly expanding, but fragmented access to testing infrastructure remains a major barrier for companies developing satellites, payloads, and space technologies. The NSQN grants industry players swift access to the nodes' capabilities, which can otherwise be a complex disconnected process leading to delays, increased costs and inefficiencies in getting space hardware to launch readiness. NSQN integrates leading national testing facilities into a cohesive and accessible network, providing industry with critical services such as thermal vacuum, vibration, pyroshock, EMI/EMC, and radiation effects testing. In the last five years, 22 spacecrafts have been successfully qualified through NSQN-affiliated facilities, demonstrating its essential role in enabling space missions. The network connects industry to specialised testing capabilities across the country, ensuring a seamless pathway from R&D to launch-ready products. Without its recognition in the NRI Roadmap, its ability to support industry growth, upgrade facilities, and maintain world-class testing services is at risk. Future investment is essential to expanding qualification capabilities under the NSQN, including upgrades at the National Space Test Facility (NSTF), the Heavy Ion Accelerator Facility (HIAF), the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), upgrading these testing systems and services ensures Australian space companies remain competitive in the global market. For Australia to cement itself as a leader in space technology, NSQN must be formally recognized and supported through the NRI Roadmap exercise. This will ensure continued access to high-quality, affordable space qualification infrastructure, accelerating industry innovation and strengthening Australia's position in the global space economy.

Q49.

4.2 Optional Document Attachment.

Note: Our strong preference is that answers are provided against the relevant questions in the survey. However, this file upload option is available for submissions in file format, where needed. Please ensure the document includes your name or organisation.