

**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**

The National Space Qualification Network (NSQN) is crucial for advancing Australia's growing space industry, serving as a central hub for space qualification. It offers accessible, distributed testing infrastructure across Australia, enabling researchers and enterprises to qualify spacecraft, payloads, and components domestically, thus reducing reliance on costly overseas facilities. As the sector expands, the fragmented access to testing infrastructure presents significant challenges for companies developing satellites and technologies. The NSQN provides timely access to essential capabilities, mitigating delays, costs, and inefficiencies in preparing hardware for launch. This is critical for Australian commercial space organisations to develop capability in time to meet global market demand, otherwise our industry will be too slow and outpaced by other nations. The NSQN integrates leading national testing facilities into a cohesive framework, delivering essential services such as thermal vacuum, vibration, pyroshock, EMI/EMC, and radiation effects testing. Over the past five years, 22 spacecraft have successfully undergone qualification through NSQN-affiliated facilities, highlighting its pivotal role in facilitating space missions. This network links industry stakeholders with specialized testing expertise nationwide, ensuring a smooth transition from R&D to launch-ready products. While these capabilities are highly relevant to the space sector, there is a significant opportunity for technology transfer, allowing these advanced technologies to be leveraged in testing across various industries. Sectors such as defence, biotechnology, automotive, and aerial systems can greatly benefit from these innovations. fostering cross-industry collaboration, these cutting-edge technologies can drive innovation, improve efficiency, and unlock new market opportunities beyond the space domain. However, without formal recognition in the National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap, the NSQN's ability to support growth, enhance facilities, and maintain world-class services is at risk. Future investment is vital for expanding capabilities, particularly in upgrading facilities like the National Space Test Facility (NSTF), the Heavy Ion Accelerator Facility (HIAF), and ANSTO. These improvements are crucial for Australian companies to maintain competitiveness globally. To position Australia as a leader in space technology, we recommend that the NSQN receive formal acknowledgment and support through the NRI Roadmap initiative. Such backing will ensure ongoing access to high-quality, cost-effective infrastructure, fostering innovation and reinforcing Australia's standing in the global space economy.

**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.

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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) interacted 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:

☐ I did not know about it

☐ Other facilities suit my needs better

☐ I would like to, but cannot get access due to geographical location

☐ I would like to, but believed that access was only available to academic researchers

☐ I am not aware of any capability that meets my needs

☒ Other (please specify)

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.

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.

