Australian Academy of the Humanities

October 2026

Exposure Draft of the 2026 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap

Submission

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The Australian Academy of the Humanities is the national body for the humanities in Australia. As one of the nation's five Learned Academies, we are a unique resource for government, working to ensure cultural, creative, and ethical perspectives inform Australia's plans for now and the future.

Question 1. What additional elements of 'what good looks like' should be considered in the future design of the NRI system?

Priorities are digital and data-driven humanities, cultural collections, Indigenous data governance, creative R&D and AI research infrastructure. These capabilities serve the public good by enabling research that strengthens cultural understanding, supports informed public policy, and ensures technological change responds to the needs and values of Australia's diverse communities.

Establish national coordination for Humanities Arts and Social Sciences (HASS), Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) & AI National Research Infrastructure (NRI)

- Make AI, and Australia's global role in it, a central priority through the NRI Roadmap.
- Use HASS and GLAM expertise, collections and contextual knowledge to develop and evaluate Australian-contextualised AI, including provenance, bias, copyright, cultural authority, Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) and Indigenous Data Sovereignty.
- Coordinate HASS researchers, GLAMs, National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) facilities, digital infrastructure providers, AI researchers and government agencies to align priorities, connect capabilities and guide investment in domain-specific sovereign AI models and their enabling environments.
- Ensure HASS, GLAM and Indigenous expertise in national AI infrastructure governance and advice.

Coordinate distributed research collections nationally

- Turn the Roadmap's recognition of distributed collections into coordinated investment and access arrangements.
- Use a federated approach to coordination that preserves institutional and community stewardship while enabling discovery, connection and appropriate reuse.
- Build nationally coordinated infrastructure to unlock underused natural and cultural heritage collections for research on critical Australian issues.

- Treat this as a sovereign capability essential to Australia's locally informed contribution to global research.
- Integrate collections and digital research infrastructure, coordinating investment in digitisation, metadata, interoperability, discovery, access, preservation, stewardship and specialist skills.
- Sustain the curatorial, conservation, interpretive and community engagement capabilities that give collections research value.

Embed Indigenous governance & cultural rights in collections & AI infrastructure

- Design and govern infrastructure involving First Nations collections, knowledge and data in accordance with Indigenous cultural authority, ICIP and Indigenous Data Sovereignty.
- Distinguish technical access from permission to access, reuse or train AI on material.

Establish recurring national analysis to guide NRI planning & investment

- Assess NRI capabilities comprehensively every five years, with lighter annual reviews.
- Publish clear evidence and visualisations of capability distribution, connectivity, maturity, sustainability, gaps and emerging needs, informed by the sector and aligned with Australia's long-term priorities.

Build on current NCRIS investments i.e. HASS and Indigenous Research Data Commons (HASS&I RDC)

- Develop two mature first-stage projects as distinct, integrated NCRIS capabilities: Improving Indigenous Research Capabilities (IIRC) initiative + Language Data Commons of Australia (LDaCA).
- Prepare the next cohort for a similar path beyond 2028: Australian Internet Observatory (AIO) + Australian Creative Histories and Futures (ACHF) + Community Data Lab (CDL).

Question 2. Where are the opportunities to strengthen the analysis of the global context and how could they be addressed?

The Roadmap needs to be explicit about international exemplars and collaborators. In the humanities and GLAM space, there are established strategic partners and leading research infrastructures from which Australia can engage and collaborate and vice versa – Australian programs are world leading, and others are now looking to us. The earlier Issues Paper consultation identified several international exemplars, of which we would single out:

- The UK's Towards a National Collection program provides a path-setting example of coordinated research across fragmented cultural collections.
- Europeana and the Common European Data Space for Cultural Heritage demonstrate how distributed collections can be made interoperable and discoverable through shared standards, governance and services.
- The European research infrastructures DARIAH and CLARIN connect institutions, research communities, data and technical expertise across the arts and humanities and language research.
- Huma-Num, the French system houses HASS materials, provides workbenches, and creates persistent URLS to preserve websites
- National-library initiatives in Norway and the UK that integrate AI and language-model development with the stewardship of cultural and linguistic collections.

The Roadmap should explicitly recognise international engagement as an element of NRI capability development and identify priority international infrastructures and potential collaborators. Australia's forthcoming association with Horizon Europe creates an immediate opportunity to position its **distinctive capabilities in human-centred and culturally capable AI** (see AAH Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into AI).

We also highlight the value of international developments in **creative research and development infrastructure.** Consider international models such as the UK's CoSTAR network, which the Exposure Draft cites. CoSTAR supports research and innovation in screen, performance and related creative technologies. UKRI funding matched by industry partnerships (through its Audience of the Future industrial strategy and the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Creative Industries Cluster Program), provided the seed investment to bring together universities, GLAM institutions and industry partners in a coordinated innovation ecosystem.

Question 3. Where are the opportunities to strengthen the analysis of the current state in Australia, and how could they be addressed?

The final Roadmap needs a map/visualisation to show how NCRIS intersects with wider NRI and broader strategic and research funding landscape specifically: portfolios like DISR – and its remit for Publicly Funded Research Agencies (PFRAs), entities like the ATEC, and major funders: ARC, MRFF, NHMRC, etc. For GLAM, this means Arts portfolio, which has carriage of National Cultural Policy, Creative Australia, and the national cultural institutions.

A current-state analysis needs to establish a more comprehensive picture of Australia's distributed research infrastructure, including its capabilities, dependencies, gaps and opportunities for connection.

For HASS and Indigenous research, this means the ARDC's HASS&I Data Commons, and wider GLAM ecosystem. The most significant gap is not necessarily an absence of valuable assets. It is the absence of a sufficiently integrated national system through which these assets can be discovered, connected, accessed and mobilised for research; meeting international data standards, such as FAIR and CARE principles. As a priority for the 2026 Roadmap and investment process, we recommend a national landscape analysis that:

- Maps distributed collections and research data.
- Identifies existing investments and their development trajectories.
- Examines enabling infrastructure and shared services.
- Connects humanities data with other national data resources.
- Assesses digital observability.
- Measures workforce capability and gaps.
- Distinguishes national significance from implementation maturity. On this point – a nationally important collection or capability may have limited current interoperability or institutional capacity. These are reasons to develop a staged investment pathway, not reasons to exclude it from consideration.

Question 4. What opportunities for change to current national planning and prioritisation approaches do you recommend for consideration?

We support transparent, expert-informed and nationally coordinated prioritisation. National significance should be assessed by reach, connectivity, research impact, sovereign importance and potential to 'unlock' wider value.

The Roadmap should establish enduring expert advice and coordination. Standing or readily convened expert groups should advise on areas requiring specialised knowledge, including Indigenous Knowledge Systems, collections, humanities, arts and social science infrastructure, AI and data governance, and translation research infrastructure. These arrangements should connect disciplinary expertise with national investment planning.

The Roadmap should also identify pathways for infrastructure to progress from proof of concept and pilot activity to sustained national capability.

Question 5. What opportunities do you see for more effective coordination or integration among NRI facilities?

There is a substantial opportunity to strengthen coordination across Australia's distributed humanities and arts, collections and Indigenous research infrastructure. We welcome the Exposure Draft's recognition and attention to collections as one of three domains of 'national importance' and its characterisation as a 'near term' priority together with proposed next steps / phasing (in section 6).

The Department of Education is the coordinating lead for the Roadmap, but responsibility for specific AI, digital platforms and Indigenous data initiatives sit across several portfolios, and the Roadmap needs to develop requisite cross-portfolio mechanisms.

We recommend establishing a **National Research Collections Coordination Capability** as a permanent, light-touch national function within the broader NRI ecosystem. Its functions should include:

- maintaining a national view of significant research collections, platforms, datasets and enabling services;
- identifying opportunities for shared infrastructure, interoperability and investment;
- supporting common approaches to metadata, discovery, persistent identifiers, provenance and data linkage;
- facilitating partnerships between GLAM institutions, universities, Indigenous organisations, research infrastructure providers and industry;
- coordinating workforce development, professional networks and access to specialist expertise;
- connecting collections and cultural data with DRI, AI infrastructure and translation pathways;
- supporting Indigenous-led governance and culturally appropriate access where First Nations knowledge and data are involved; and
- providing advice to government on national priorities, gaps, dependencies and investment opportunities.

There are also opportunities to strengthen integration among existing HASS&I RDC initiatives and humanities outside NCRIS. Mature capabilities such as LDaCA and PARADISEC, alongside emerging initiatives such as the AIO, ACHF, and CDL, demonstrate the potential for a connected ecosystem. Their collective value will depend on shared foundations, sustainable services and effective coordination.

A national discovery layer, including exploration of a 'Cultural Atlas of Australia' or equivalent approach, could help researchers identify relevant cultural collections and resources across institutions and jurisdictions. This should complement existing catalogues and discovery services rather than duplicate them.

Question 6. What specific opportunities for improved coordination between funding schemes do you recommend should be subject to further analysis in 2027–2028?

1. **Coordination between NCRIS and other public investments.** Examine how NCRIS, PFRAs, university investment and state and territory funding can support complementary national capabilities without duplication or fragmented responsibilities. The ARC's new National Competitive Grants Program is an obvious opportunity to align responsibilities and remit. ARC investments have underwritten NCRIS capabilities and vice versa, but not by strategic design. There is a need for better lines of sight across schemes and agencies, to maximise the research dollar and potential for social, cultural, environmental and economic impact.
2. **A pathway from pilot projects to sustained capability.** Review arrangements for moving successful research data commons, digital humanities platforms, language resources and other emerging capabilities from initial development to nationally coordinated, sustainable services.
3. **Shared enabling infrastructure.** Consider coordinated funding for metadata, digitisation, data linkage, persistent identifiers, discovery, interoperability, preservation, secure environments and common tools that serve multiple facilities and research communities.
4. **A national coordinating function for collections and HASS infrastructure.** Assess funding models for a national capability that supports coordination, landscape intelligence, partnerships and strategic planning across distributed assets.
5. **Workforce and service sustainability.** Examine whether funding arrangements adequately support technical and professional staff, data stewardship, curatorial expertise, Indigenous governance, specialist training and career pathways. Infrastructure funding should recognise that people and services are integral to infrastructure, not ancillary costs. And people must be up-skilled and cross-skilled to make the most of emerging technologies and practices.
6. **Coordination between research and cultural-sector funding.** Identify mechanisms through which research infrastructure investment can leverage collections and expertise held by GLAM institutions, without transferring the costs of routine collecting, preservation or public services to research infrastructure programs. The longstanding disconnect between research and cultural-sector funding continues to constrain Australia's ability to realise the research and public value of its collections. Addressing this requires mechanisms that enable research infrastructure investment to draw on GLAM collections and expertise, with clear funding responsibilities. This investment must complement sustained funding for collecting preservation and public services.
7. **Links between infrastructure and translation.** Explore complementary funding for research-to-policy, community, cultural and industry translation, including creative R&D and public-interest applications.

Question 7. What specific opportunities to improve governance should be analysed in 2027–2028 to enhance the efficiency and value for money of Australia's NRI?

We recommend examining governance arrangements that improve national coordination, accountability and investment intelligence while preserving appropriate institutional autonomy and Indigenous authority. The following opportunities warrant further analysis:

- **A national coordination mechanism for collections and HASS infrastructure.** Consider a standing function with a clear remit to map capabilities, identify shared priorities, convene partners, advise on investment and monitor system-wide gaps. Its role should be complementary to existing infrastructure providers and funding bodies.

- **Stronger coordination between infrastructure capabilities.** Explore mechanisms for linking collections, DRI, workforce and translation planning, recognising that these capabilities are interdependent.
- **Standing expert advice.** Establish arrangements to draw on specialist expertise in humanities, arts and social sciences, GLAM, Indigenous knowledge, AI, data governance and translation when assessing priorities and emerging needs.
- **Indigenous-led governance.** Ensure that governance of First Nations knowledge and data is led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and is supported by appropriate decision-making authority, resourcing and accountability.

Question 8. AI is impacting research practices in all domains. What are the implications for how we should plan and prioritise national research infrastructure?

AI has implications for every dimension of NRI, including the data and collections used to develop and evaluate systems, the compute and software required to apply them, the workforce needed to use them responsibly, and the governance arrangements that determine how outputs and underlying data may be used.

We welcome the Roadmap's recognition that Australian-focused AI capability is important where international models do not adequately capture local contexts. We recommend that this be extended to **recognise humanities, arts, GLAM and Indigenous knowledge infrastructure as essential to developing, evaluating and governing AI systems that serve Australian needs.**

The Exposure Draft recognises that "Advisory arrangements should be in place that ensure an appropriate cadence of expert foresighting and scenario planning." Via NCRIS, HASS and Indigenous research foresighting and priority setting occurs at project-level through the HASS&I RDC, but these insights need to be elevated and convened, alongside other sector expertise, to inform strategic/national approaches to NRI.

Planning and prioritisation require:

- **Investing in the data foundations of AI.** Australian histories, languages, cultural collections, social research datasets and Indigenous knowledge systems contribute to research and AI capability. Investment should support digitisation, documentation, metadata, provenance, quality assurance, interoperability and appropriate access. However, making data AI-ready must not imply that it is unrestricted for model training or reuse. AI heightens the need to link trustworthy repositories and keep collections accessible and compliant with data quality standards.
- **Embedding rights and cultural governance in AI infrastructure.** Copyright, moral rights, ICIP, Indigenous Data Sovereignty, consent, licensing, attribution and culturally appropriate access should be addressed at the infrastructure layer. First Nations communities and knowledge holders must retain appropriate authority over their knowledge and data. Technical access controls alone are not a substitute for governance.
- **Supporting humanities-led and interdisciplinary AI evaluation.** HASS expertise is necessary to assess representation, bias, historical context, language and cultural validity, interpretability, social consequences and the effects of AI on human agency and creativity. These capabilities should be considered part of the infrastructure required for responsible AI-enabled research.
- **Investing in digital observability.** Research on AI-mediated communication, online platforms, advertising, misinformation and the digital public sphere requires sustained access to digital evidence, appropriate tools and secure research environments.

Infrastructure must enable longitudinal and comparative research while protecting privacy and addressing platform access constraints.

- **Developing the workforce.** AI-enabled research depends on collaboration among computing and data specialists, domain researchers, archivists, librarians, linguists, social scientists, ethicists, Indigenous knowledge holders and other experts. Investment should support interdisciplinary training and professional roles that connect technical systems with research needs and public responsibilities.

Question 9. Do you agree with the definition of nationally significant research collections in terms of reach, connectivity and research impact? Why or why not?

- Recognise collections as dynamic research infrastructure. Research activates collections: interrogating evidence, connecting sources and generating knowledge and inquiry. This requires research and collections expertise in stewardship, preservation, description, digitisation, discovery, rights and interoperability, linked to digital research infrastructure and responsible AI.
- The Draft's claim (p.24) that GLAM collections "preserve cultural heritage, enrich communities, foster learning, inspire creativity and build identity, community awareness, understanding and cohesion. These are very important objectives, but they are not research" (p.24) fundamentally misunderstands humanities research and the infrastructure that enables it.
- Humanities researchers use GLAM material to answer unforeseen questions and generate knowledge. Collections also enable community-led and Indigenous-led inquiry, unlocking national research potential.
- Like the Australian Bureau of Statistics (p.12), GLAM collections are dual-purpose NRI serving public and research remits.
- Museums also have legislative research functions:
    - Museums Act 1983 (Museums Victoria): develop and maintain State natural sciences, indigenous culture, social history, science and technology collections (b); promote their use for scientific research (d).
    - National Museum of Australia Act 1980: develop and maintain a national historical collection (a); conduct, arrange or assist research into Australian history (c).
- The NRI threshold should test function and capability. Australia lacks the NRI layer connecting GLAM assets into R&D capability by:
    - providing infrastructure no institution can efficiently deliver alone;
    - connecting portfolios and jurisdictions;
    - creating research access and capability;
    - unlocking public assets for new R&D;
    - enabling university, institutional, philanthropic or industry co-investment;
    - supporting sovereign capability; and
    - delivering measurable research, innovation or public value.
- We agree in principle with the Draft's definition of nationally significant:
    - GLAM significance-assessment frameworks should inform and complement NRI identification and prioritisation of research collections.

- Recognise how preservation, cataloguing, conservation, exhibitions, community engagement and cultural stewardship enable research.
- A collection may be nationally significant because it is unique, culturally authoritative, irreplaceable or essential to future research, even if current usage is limited or its digital infrastructure is 'immature'. National significance should therefore be assessed alongside strategic potential, irreplaceability, risk and the costs of failing to preserve or mobilise the resource.

Question 10. Are the strategic objectives and key areas for action the priority ones?

We support the direction of the Roadmap's collections priorities, particularly the emphasis on coordination, enabling infrastructure and integration into future NRI planning. We support:

- **Establishment a national coordinating capability.** Australia needs a sustained national function to connect distributed collections, identify priorities and gaps, facilitate collaboration and advise on investment. This is the critical step to create the constituency from which will ultimately derive also the administrative and governance mechanism for the work in collections and digital data.
- **Integration of collections with DRI.** Collections investment should be planned alongside digital repositories, data curation, research software, secure environments, metadata, identifiers, discovery and interoperability. Collections and DRI form one connected research ecosystem.
- **Making rights and governance foundational.** Collections infrastructure should incorporate provenance, copyright, ICIP, Indigenous Data Sovereignty, consent, attribution and culturally appropriate access from the outset. These requirements should shape system architecture.
- **Recognising the range of nationally significant collections.** The scope should include cultural and historical collections, archives, language resources, oral histories, audiovisual materials, social research collections and community-held resources, alongside other research collections. The national assessment should consider uniqueness, research potential, cultural significance and risk of loss.
- **Supporting discovery and appropriate linkage.** A national discovery layer or 'Cultural Atlas of Australia' concept could help researchers identify resources across institutional and jurisdictional boundaries. This should build on existing systems and standards.
- **Investing in people and long-term stewardship.** Digitisation and platform development are not sufficient without sustainable curation, conservation, data management, language expertise, cultural interpretation and technical support. Workforce and succession planning should be integrated into collections strategies.
- **Connecting collections to AI and translation.** Collections can support AI-enabled research and new creative, policy and public applications, but only with appropriate permissions, contextual interpretation and human oversight.

Question 11. In the descriptions of any of the capabilities (workforce, digital research infrastructure, fabrication, observation, measurement, and collections), are there key aspects that have not been mentioned? If so, please elaborate.

We take the opportunity to drill into four of these capabilities with the humanities, arts, and GLAM in view.

Workforce: The workforce discussion should include the professional and disciplinary expertise needed to curate, interpret, govern and mobilise research assets. This includes archivists,

librarians, curators, conservators, historians, linguists, digital humanities specialists, social researchers, Indigenous knowledge holders, data stewards, AI evaluators and professionals working across disciplines and sectors.

Alongside specialist roles, the system needs boundary-spanning or 'connector' roles that link research communities, infrastructure providers, cultural institutions, government, Indigenous organisations and industry. Funding should support career pathways, succession, training and long-term retention.

Digital research infrastructure: DRI should explicitly support humanities, arts and social science data, qualitative and multimodal research, language resources, cultural collections, digital observatories and secure research environments. It should enable appropriate integration of qualitative and quantitative evidence and linkage between research datasets and other data sources.

Interoperability must not mean uniformity or unrestricted access. Provenance, permissions, cultural authority, privacy and appropriate use should be embedded in infrastructure design.

Fabrication: Fabrication should recognise creative and cultural R&D alongside engineering and manufacturing applications. Digital production, immersive environments, virtual production, performance technologies and creative experimentation can support research and innovation across universities, GLAM institutions and the creative industries. Infrastructure should enable collaboration between technical researchers, artists, designers and humanities scholars.

Observation: Observation should include the study of human behaviour, culture, language, communication and digital environments, alongside physical and environmental systems. Digital platforms, social media, online advertising and AI-mediated communication are increasingly important objects of research. Observing these environments requires appropriate data access, longitudinal capability, ethical governance and specialist interpretation.

The Roadmap could recognise and scale digital observability as a national research infrastructure capability to support independent research into the social, cultural, political and democratic impacts of digital systems.

Question 12. Do you have any comments on the proposed phased approach to elevate Indigenous Knowledge Systems?

We strongly support the Roadmap's commitment to elevating Indigenous Knowledge Systems and developing dedicated Indigenous knowledge and data infrastructure. This is a critical national capability, with benefits for First Nations communities and for research across humanities, linguistics, archaeology, history, environmental knowledge and other fields.

The proposed phased approach is appropriate, provided that Indigenous leadership and governance are established from the outset and sustained throughout implementation.

We support:

- Scaling and connect existing capabilities built through the HASS&I RDC, namely the Improving Indigenous Research Capabilities program, as well as LDaCA, while connecting related initiatives and capabilities hosted by research institutions and Indigenous organisations.
- Indigenous ownership and control i.e. developing infrastructure that enables First Nations communities to determine how their knowledge and data are collected, stored, accessed, linked, interpreted and reused.
- Indigenous workforce and leadership i.e. investing in training, professional pathways, Indigenous research leadership, data stewardship and the participation of knowledge holders in the design and operation of infrastructure.

- The use of relevant Indigenous governance principles, including CARE and the Maiam nayri Wingara principles, alongside FAIR where appropriate. FAIR principles should not override Indigenous authority or imply that all data should be openly accessible. The Roadmap should specifically cite and embed the Framework for the Governance of Indigenous Data (2026) developed by the Indigenous Research Data Commons (HASS&I RDC).

Question 13. Do you have any comments on the proposed integrated national approach to HPC (high-performance computing)?

We support a coordinated national approach to HPC that improves access, reduces unnecessary duplication and aligns compute investment with evolving research needs. The approach should, however, recognise that compute is only one component of effective AI-enabled and data-intensive research. Its value depends on access to appropriate data, software, domain expertise, governance and secure research environments.

We recommend that national HPC planning:

- coordinate access to public and commercial compute where appropriate, while protecting research security and data sovereignty;
- consider the requirements of AI-enabled research across all disciplines, including humanities, arts and social sciences;
- support workflows that combine compute with collections, language resources, qualitative and multimodal data, research software and digital repositories;
- provide secure environments for sensitive data and research involving privacy, Indigenous knowledge or culturally restricted material;
- support AI evaluation and validation, including assessment of language, cultural and historical accuracy and the limitations of models trained on incomplete or unrepresentative data;
- incorporate workforce development and access pathways for researchers who do not have the technical or institutional capacity to use advanced compute independently; and
- maintain flexibility as AI architectures, hardware requirements and research workflows evolve.

For humanities and cultural research HPC is needed to do OCR/HCR of manuscripts, and ASR of media, to provide the textual content that can aid finding new information. Advanced compute needs to support language technologies, large-scale text and audiovisual analysis, digital heritage, cultural data linkage and research into digital platforms. These applications require close collaboration between computing specialists and researchers who understand the content, context and limitations of the data.

An integrated approach should therefore coordinate compute with the wider research infrastructure ecosystem, rather than treating HPC as a standalone technical service.

Question 14. Do you have any comments on the proposed phased approach to collections?

We support the proposed phased approach and the ambition to strengthen coordination, improve enabling infrastructure and integrate collections into future NRI planning.

We recommend refinements to ensure that the approach creates a sustainable national capability.

Phase 1: Establish national coordination and identify priorities.

- Establish a National Research Collections Coordination Capability with a clear remit for landscape analysis, coordination, partnership development and investment advice.

- There must be a strong emphasis on Indigenous engagement and involvement in this process, leading to specific outcomes that ensure that Indigenous knowledges are protected and determined by the interests of First Nations and source communities.
- Develop transparent criteria for identifying nationally significant collections, considering reach, connectivity, research impact, uniqueness, cultural significance, risk of loss and future research potential.
- Replace the blanket exclusion of GLAM collections (p.24) with an assessment of their demonstrated and potential research value, developed jointly with the research and GLAM sectors, and establish a framework with the Arts portfolio for shared investment and clear allocation of costs. Include GLAM institutions, universities, regional and community collections, Indigenous organisations and relevant research infrastructure providers.
- Identify shared gaps in metadata, digitisation, discovery, interoperability, preservation, workforce and governance.

Phase 2: Strengthen enabling infrastructure.

- Invest in shared services and standards that improve discovery, interoperability, preservation and appropriate access.
- Connect collections to DRI, research software, data linkage and AI-enabled research workflows.
- Support sustainable stewardship, curation, conservation and workforce capability.
- Embed provenance, copyright, ICIP, Indigenous Data Sovereignty and culturally appropriate access in system design.
- Test models that allow collections to remain distributed while operating as a connected national research resource.

Phase 3: Integrate collections into future NRI investment planning.

- Make collections and their enabling infrastructure a continuing part of national capability planning.
- Develop investment pathways that support mature capabilities while building the readiness of collections with high national significance but limited current interoperability.
- Monitor the use and impact of shared services, including research outcomes, access, collaboration, public and policy benefit, and sustainability.
- Maintain coordination between collections, DRI, workforce, AI and translation planning.

Question 15. Please add any feedback on the draft findings you would like the Roadmap Expert Working Group to consider.

We support the recognition that NRI must become more coordinated, adaptive and responsive to complex national challenges, and that HASS research infrastructure is an essential facet of Australia's sovereign capability.

We recommend that the findings more explicitly acknowledge the following points.

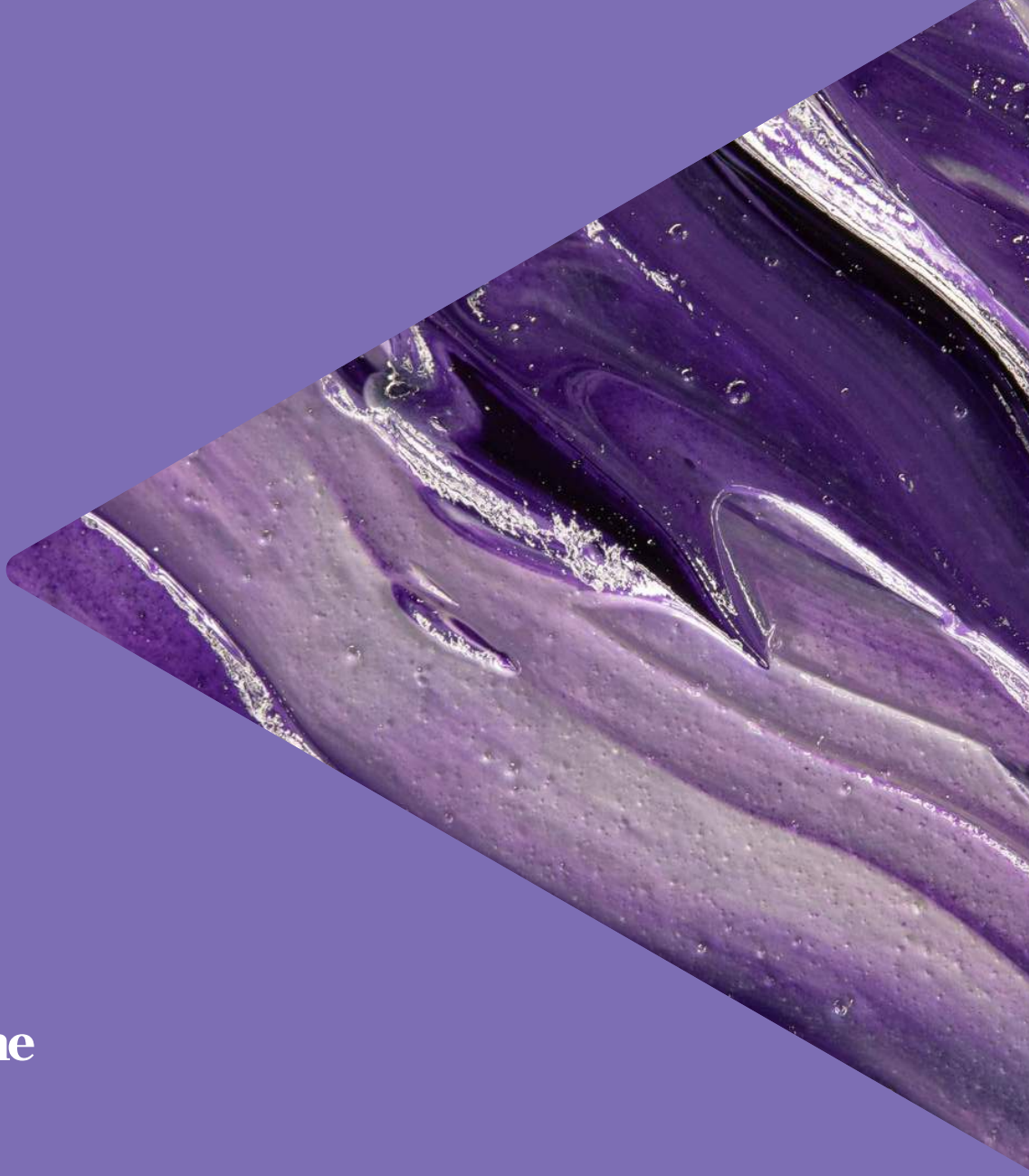
- In the first finding 'A Strong Foundation', we suggest an additional dot point on Indigenous data governance and capability across NRI as a foundation for strong and sovereign systems and rights-based infrastructure governance.
- We agree with the finding about the need for "continued multi-jurisdictional support for the NRI portfolio" as a strong foundation. As we have outlined in this submission, NCRIS investment

through the ARDC's HASS&I RDC has built important partnerships with state and federal agencies, and GLAMs, etc but there is a lot more to leverage for strategic/system level gain.

- Collections and DRI are interdependent. The value of collections increasingly depends on digital infrastructure, metadata, discovery, interoperability, preservation, governance and appropriate access. These should be planned as a connected system.

Question 16. Please add any other feedback you would like the Roadmap Expert Working Group to consider.

- The section on Australia's sovereign capability, specifically: "Being able to understand ourselves as a nation, represent ourselves to others on our own terms, navigate Australia's place in our region and the world and use our self-understanding to make life in Australia better is a sovereign capability" references in general terms HASS research infrastructures, including some supported by NCRIS investments following the 2021 Roadmap. The ARDC HASS&I RDC capabilities need to be explicitly named in the Roadmap as existing assets.
- Pathways for translation section should cite hums-led R&D alongside scientific, medical or technical, for example Prof Jill Bennet and team's work on AI companions in dementia care and other settings, which has both commercial and public good benefits.
- The impact scenarios cited in the Roadmap need to draw out the social and cultural i.e. HASS and Indigenous contribution and impact.
    - In the environment priority what is missing from the list on p. 46: "Potential opportunities for NRI to improve support for protecting and restoring our environment include …" is people and culture data i.e. how Australians understand and interact with their environment, co-dependencies between health outcomes and environment, etc.
    - In Section 4.6: Secure and Resilient Australia we recommend a HASS exemplar here alongside the Bushfire Intelligence impact case study – suggest LDaCA to evidence community resilience through Australian languages data sovereignty.
- Digitisation and AI have opened rich cross disciplinary research drawing on otherwise disparate data collections. Therefore, the design of the Roadmap should plan for and support future multi-disciplinary collaboration and shared use of data to enhance sovereign capability and understanding of our distinctive history, culture and environment. Collaborations across HASS and STEM and Indigenous research need to be at the heart of the Roadmap.



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