



Major National Research Facilities Programme

The Commonwealth Government's Major National Research Facilities Programme (MNRF) provides enhanced access for Australian researchers to world-class, specialised facilities not otherwise available, increases opportunities for scientific R&D, attracts overseas researchers and firms to Australia, and retains local talent.

In 2001, fifteen facilities were selected to receive \$155 million in funding over five years. The Programme is a major element of the Government's \$3 billion five-year vision, *Backing Australia's Ability*, to strengthen innovation. The Programme is not considering further funding proposals at this stage.

This investment in research infrastructure of national and international significance will ensure Australia remains competitive and keeps pace with rapid developments in science and innovation.

What are MNRFs?

Major National Research Facilities are expensive, large equipment items or highly specialised laboratories that are vital for conducting leading-edge research in science, engineering and technology.

Through adding strategic capability to Australia's research infrastructure, these facilities enhance the scope and opportunity to exploit Australian science and technology innovations.

Objectives

The MNRF Programme funds facilities on the basis of potential national benefit and scientific merit.

The Government's specific objectives for the MNRF Programme are to establish major research facilities that:

- Improve Australia's capability in science, engineering and technology;
- Maintain and enhance Australia's international scientific and industrial competitiveness; and
- Support the rapid commercialisation of research results.

Funding Arrangements

MNRF proposals over \$5 million were considered for funding. The Commonwealth is providing up to 50 percent of the MNRF total eligible project costs with the balance provided by participant organisations, supporting agencies and users of the facility.