

Your input invited to Australia's environmental predictive capability

The National Environmental Prediction System (NEPS) Scoping Study is broadening its community consultations and we invite you to help shape the development of this key support system for Australia's research and decision-making communities.

The 2016 National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap identified a NEPS as a potential new research capability and a scoping study was endorsed via the 2018 Research Infrastructure Investment Plan. In September 2019 the [NEPS Scoping Study](#) team prepared an [outline for the System Design of NEPS](#).

The outline incorporates the thinking of the NEPS Scoping Study Expert Panel and ideas arising from the Scoping Study's [pilot stage consultations](#) with select stakeholders. It comprises the following elements:

- **information architecture** - to support access, management, integration and use of services to deliver unprecedented understanding of the Australian environment;
- **technical architecture** - to support information flows and data management; and
- **social architecture** - to build consensus on and enable contributing National Research Infrastructure (NRI) projects to both participate in and benefit from NEPS.

The final *System Design* document for NEPS must address the mechanisms required to support networking or federation across existing NRI, national, and State and Territory environmental data and to deliver a capability that facilitates access to integrated data and modelling.

To achieve this aim, the NEPS Scoping Study Expert Panel has commenced its broader community consultation stage to obtain input from scientists, environmental managers, students, policy makers, industry consultants and concerned citizens across the country.

The Scoping Study team started these broader consultations in September 2019, meeting with personnel from the infrastructure projects that make up the *National Earth and Environmental Facilities Forum* (NEESFF), which covers Geoscience Australia, the Bureau of Meteorology and multiple NCRIS-funded projects.

Over the next two months, the Expert Panel will take the consultation process to a number of capital cities and hold workshops with key research institutions and government agencies. Amongst others, there will be a presentation at the November [GEO Week](#) in Canberra and a workshop at the [Ecological Society of Australia conference](#) in Launceston, also in November.

The panel is also accepting written submissions until Friday, 29 November 2019. These submissions can be structured around the [documents already on the NEPS website](#) or they can comprise broader ideas, comments about the need for environmental prediction, and organisational structures for achieving this outcome.

The consultation process will significantly shape the final *System Design* document for NEPS and help develop necessary national consensus around a NEPS proposal and investment plan for presentation to the Australian Government in 2020.

The NEPS Scoping Study Expert Panel looks forward to hearing from you and receiving your valuable input to this national research capability for Australia.

- For more information on the NEPS Scoping Study please visit <http://www.science.uq.edu.au/neps> or subscribe to the [TERN newsletter](#).
- Submissions to the NEPS Scoping Study (email tern@uq.edu.au) close 5pm AEDT, Friday, 29 November 2019.