



## Australian Academy of Science

Ian Potter House, Gordon Street, Canberra ACT 2601

19<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Ms Clare McLaughlin, General Manager  
Research Infrastructure and Science Policy Branch  
Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research  
GPO Box 9839  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: [Roadmap2011@innovation.gov.au](mailto:Roadmap2011@innovation.gov.au)

Dear Ms McLaughlin,

### *2011 Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure Exposure Draft*

The Australian Academy of Science welcomes the broad scope of the 2011 Strategic Roadmap, with its focus on research excellence and on providing major national (and international) facilities that integrate with areas where Australia already has strength and which are important for the future.

The Academy is fully supportive of the view expressed in the Roadmap that a national, collaborative approach needs to be taken, as well as the focus given to e-research issues collectively. The latter provides essential underpinning for all the capability areas, as does the existence of a high level of computer resources and IT.

The Academy also welcomes the focus on interdisciplinary approaches and the principle of holistic funding. The agreement that funding must be not only to provide equipment and buildings, but also skilled technical support staff, operations and maintenance, will ensure that funded infrastructure is viable. It is essential, therefore, that in developing the Roadmap, attention also is given to addressing the specific staffing requirements which will operate and maintain the infrastructure that has been identified.

While the Roadmap cannot announce funding, neither should it remain silent with respect to the quantum of funding required to support and sustain the various capability areas. It should be stressed that any situation where funding is not forthcoming will result in serious consequences. A delay in funding would place at risk many current initiatives and international collaborations. In the longer term it could affect Australia's reputation as a reliable partner in the international research community, and reflect badly on our attempts to secure the SKA and similar initiatives.

It is also critical that the Roadmap is integrated with other developments, such as ensuring that mathematicians, engineers and safety experts are trained in sufficient numbers to provide a cohort of research staff. This will help ensure Australia has a sustainable and comprehensive strategic policy for science and technology.

With these considerations addressed, the Roadmap should provide a valuable guide to future areas for research infrastructure investment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bob Williamson".

Professor Bob Williamson AO FRS FAA FRCP FRCPATH  
Secretary for Science Policy