

MEDIA RELEASE

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AURIN to help deliver two major national research infrastructure projects

Melbourne, Australia

AURIN will play a key role in two major new national research infrastructure projects following Australian Government investment in the Australian Urban Climate Research Initiative (AUCRI) and the Australian Coastal Research Infrastructure initiative (CoastRI).

AURIN will lead the \$11 million AUCRI project, which will strengthen Australia's ability to understand, model and respond to urban climate risk. AURIN will also receive an additional \$3 million for contributing to a nationally coordinated coastal monitoring capability that will improve Australia's ability to understand and respond to coastal change.

Together, these projects will deliver critical research infrastructure to support better decisions about climate adaptation, urban resilience, coastal change, infrastructure planning, emissions reduction, community wellbeing and long-term environmental management.

AUCRI will bring together urban and climate modelling to assess both the impact of climate change on Australian cities and the effects of cities on regional climate. The project will integrate representations of urban environments with Australia's national climate projection tools, including the Australian Community Climate and Earth-System Simulator (ACCESS), to support high-resolution, city-scale climate prediction and consequence modelling.

CoastRI will strengthen Australia's coastal monitoring capability through a nationwide network of sensors and drones, producing data tailored to Australia's unique coastal environments and critical for long-term planning. AURIN's contribution will focus on coastal settlements, infrastructure and industries, aiming to improve data sharing between industry, government and academic sectors, enhance integrated coastal development and optimize resource allocation.

Quote attributable to Professor Pascal Perez, Director, AURIN

'Australian cities host 90% of the population, generate 80% of our GDP and contribute to nearly 60% of the annual carbon emissions. Most of these cities and a large majority of our critical infrastructure, including ports and airports, are located less than 50km from the Australian coastline. Thus, it is crucial to establish long-term, well-resourced and tightly integrated research infrastructure that can inform evidence-based policies and interventions addressing the intertwined effects of climate change, energy transition and demographic transformation on our cities and communities.'



AUCRI is a national collaborative project involving five National Research Infrastructure facilities and major scientific, industry and government partners. It will be delivered across four work packages over two years, focused on urban climate data, urban climate models, consequence modelling and risk assessments, and evidence-based knowledge transfer for decision-making across city, national and global scales.

The initiative aligns with several Australian Government priorities, including the National Urban Policy, the Net Zero Plan and the National Adaptation Plan. It also addresses National Science and Research Priorities relating to the transition to net zero, healthy and thriving communities, and resilient built environments.

CoastRI will be delivered through a consortium of 13 National Research Infrastructure facilities, bringing together national expertise in environmental monitoring, data infrastructure, analytics and research capability. The initiative will support better long-term planning by helping communities, industries and governments understand how Australia's coastlines are changing and how those changes may affect homes, businesses, infrastructure, shipping routes, agriculture, fisheries, offshore renewable energy and the natural environment.

AURIN welcomes these investments and the opportunity to help deliver nationally coordinated research infrastructure for Australia's urban, regional and coastal future. We thank the Department of Education and NCRIS for its support, as well as the AURIN Board, Scientific Advisory Committee, Industry Advisory Committee and our Node Network for their trust, guidance and support. We look forward to working alongside our AUCRI and CoastRI partners to deliver these important national capabilities.

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About AURIN

AURIN is Australia's national digital research infrastructure for urban, regional and social research. Funded by the Australian Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy and hosted by the University of Melbourne, AURIN provides researchers, government and industry with access to research-ready datasets, tools and expertise to support evidence-based decisions about Australia's cities and regions.

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