

AURIN is the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network: national digital research infrastructure connecting researchers and decision-makers with research-ready data, analytical tools, expertise and collaborative networks.

Overview

The Edge Program (Program) provides competitive, time-limited access to high-value research infrastructure, such as hard-to-get data (Premium Products) and AURIN's technical and scientific expertise.

The Program is designed for research that is ready to move from promising work towards practical use. It supports projects that use data to test, develop or demonstrate a research solution with a credible pathway to impact.

Who this is for?

Australian university and research organisation teams working on urban or regional challenges, including researchers at early, mid and senior career stages, multidisciplinary teams, and AURIN Node partners.

Why the AURIN Edge Program?

To make valuable research infrastructure available where it can unlock stronger evidence, useful outputs and real-world impact.

The Program aims to:

- support research that addresses Australian urban and regional challenges;
- enable access to data and capabilities that may otherwise be difficult or cost-prohibitive to obtain;
- strengthen the connection between research, policy, industry and community needs;
- support demonstrators, prototypes, minimum viable products and other translational outputs; and
- build a pipeline of reusable research solutions that can be adopted, scaled or developed further.

AURIN aims to direct available resources to the projects with the strongest combination of strategic relevance, research quality, feasibility and potential impact.

What to Expect - the process

- **Readiness Self-Assessment:** check if you are ready to apply using the readiness assessment and then proceed to apply.
- **Expression of Interest (EoI):** describe the problem, proposed approach, the data needed. EoI are assessed against eligibility, the Criteria and Technical Feasibility requirements.
- **Consultation:** EoI that meet requirements will be contacted to discuss technical aspects related to the data requested.

You'll be asked to:

1. Explain your need for hard-to-get data, and how your project fits with one of AURIN's focus areas
2. Upload a copy of your existing research plan, and any additional supporting documentation that supports your case.

As allocation of data resources is limited, AURIN reviews your EoI, in context of all applications received in the round. You will be notified if there is capacity to deliver the data requested, for your research project.

If selected, you can expect:

- access to the approved Premium Product after the relevant Data Licence Agreement is executed;
- onboarding and agreed support from AURIN during the project;
- expectations to use the data lawfully, protect confidential information and comply with licence conditions;
- requests to report on project outputs, use and impact; and
- acknowledgement of AURIN support and any relevant third-party data providers as required or applicable, in relevant publications, presentations and public materials, unless otherwise agreed.
- inclusion of your projects in AURIN promotional campaigns.

Successful projects may be announced publicly by project title, applicant and location.

Key Dates

Timing and allocation of data is subject to volume of EoI received;

- Round closes 16 October 2026;

Assessment occurs over October to November 2026; over this period **applicants are required to be available for the consultation.**

Applicants will be notified by December 2026.

EoI(s) need to be submitted by the round close date to be assessed and will be reviewed as received. EoI(s) received after this date or where the researcher isn't available to support the review and/or assessment will be put in the queue to be assessed in next the round (mid-2027)

AURIN may review and approve EoI(s) prior to the closing date at its discretion.

How to apply

Eligibility

You may apply if you are employed by an Australian university or research organisation.

Your project must:

- be ready, or nearly ready, to commence when successful applicants are notified;
- address an AURIN Focus area or present a compelling fit with AURIN's challenge areas;
- identify intended users and a credible pathway from research to practical application;
- require access to the requested Premium Product, with no suitable alternative that provides the same value;

- be technically feasible and permitted under the relevant data agreement;
- generally, sit between [Technology Readiness Levels 4–7](#) and;
- be conducted in Australia, with data remaining in Australia where required by the relevant licence.

Applications may not proceed where eligibility is not met, information is insufficient, the researcher is not available for consultation, or the proposal does not meet the criteria.

Criteria

You self-assess with using the readiness tool;

- **Infrastructure need:** the requested data or capability is essential, unique or difficult to access elsewhere, and how the work will create reusable value.
- **End-user relevance:** evidence that the problem matters to intended users, such as government, industry, communities or research partners.
- **Pathway to impact:** a realistic plan for adoption, including pilots, demonstrators, partner involvement, co-design, training or dissemination.
- **Value of outputs:** remain useful beyond the project, such as datasets, methods, dashboards, decision-support tools, models or scalable workflows.
- **Research quality and innovation:** clear questions, robust methods, appropriate data, validation, ethical and governance considerations, and meaningful advancement beyond current practice.
- **Capability, diversity and inclusion:** the skills, partnerships, resources and delivery plan needed to succeed, with diverse perspectives and opportunities for emerging researchers.
- **Strategic alignment:** fit with AURIN's Focus Areas and/or Challenge Areas; effective use of AURIN infrastructure and expertise; and contribution to evidence-based decision-making.

Focus Areas

AURIN's focus areas reflect the pressures shaping Australian cities, regional centres and communities. Strong applications connect urban data to decisions that improve liveability, resilience and equity.

- **Housing systems, feasibility and delivery:** understand how planning, land, markets, finance, infrastructure and delivery interact to support more affordable and well-located housing.
- **Future mobility systems:** investigate how transport, land use, population growth, technology, behaviour and climate goals interact to shape movement of people, goods and services.
- **Energy systems and the transition to net zero:** connect energy, transport, housing, land use, climate, demographic and economic data to support resilient, affordable and equitable transitions.

Applications that address related urban or regional priorities may also be considered where they demonstrate a clear value proposition for AURIN and its research network.

Enquiries

Should you have any additional questions or need further clarification or support, please submit enquiries by email to support@aurin.org.au

Definitions

Applicant: an eligible organisation or research team that submits an EoI or Full Application.

AURIN: the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network.

Challenge Area: AURIN’s strategic challenge areas that guide the organisation’s priorities.

Focus Area: a defined urban or regional problem area that guides the Program’s annual priorities and investment.

Data Licence Agreement: Also known as a Data Transfer Agreement. The agreement that sets the conditions for accessing and using a Premium Product or other restricted data, including relevant [AURIN Terms of Use](#).

Expression of Interest (Eoi): the application to describe a proposed project and assess readiness and fit. An Eoi is not a funding or data-access award.

Guidelines: the Program Guidelines, read together and applicable legal terms.

Criteria: the assessment areas used to compare eligible applications, including strategic alignment, translation, research quality, innovation, capability and value.

Node Network: The Node Network connects AURIN's national research infrastructure with Australia's leading institutions to solve critical challenges faster by pooling expertise, data, and resources.

Pathway to impact: the credible route by which research outputs can be transferred, translated, adopted and used to create meaningful change.

Premium Product: a high-value or hard-to-get dataset, data service or research capability made available under specific conditions.

Project: the research activity and outputs described in the Eoi.

Project Commencement: the date the relevant Data Licence Agreement is executed, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

Recipient: a successful Applicant that has accepted the offer and entered into the relevant Data Licence Agreement.

Technical Feasibility: assessment of data fit, scope, delivery, licensing and practical feasibility.

Technology Readiness Level (TRL): a scale describing how close a technology or research solution is to demonstrated, operational use. This Program generally supports TRLs 4–7. For further detail on TRLs read [Technology and Commercial Readiness Tools by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency \(ARENA\)](#).

Change Register

Version	Section	Change	Date
1	All	AURIN Legal reviewed.	25/08/2026