

Project Update (September 2023)

Research Link Australia (RLA) project

RLA Project Team

1 October 2023

Earlier this year the RLA team undertook over 50 formal consultations capturing 70 use cases that identified potential needs across a broad range of stakeholders. Following on from initial consultations, RLA commenced a series of co-design workshops (May through August 2023) that focused on activities to better understand the sector's existing capability and needs, identify data sources, and to shape and test the design and deliverables of the project. The project also established an Advisory Committee as a part of project governance with membership representing a broad range of stakeholders.

RLA adopted a consultative and co-design approach to ensure the sector's capabilities and needs can be developed and iteratively improved together. This approach seeks to align with consultation advice, that RLA can add real value to the whole ecosystem and boost the success and capacity of others. This advice further aligns with our co-designed vision, specifically that RLA will act as a gateway to multiple platforms and services promoting capabilities across the research-industry facilitation ecosystem.

The RLA team has developed the first draft of a Shared Strategic Framework intended to guide the development and evolution of RLA. The framework gathers community input relating to aspects of strategy, identified during initial stakeholder consultations, consultant evaluation, and feedback from co-design workshops that delved into specific aspects of the strategy. The goal of developing a "shared" strategy is to work with others, both participants and future partners, to articulate our joint commitment to the vision of a better, richer and shared information environment. The goal for the draft release of the Shared Strategic Framework is to test the essential components, draft a clear articulation of RLA's role and intended service model, and to ensure that the draft framework can guide subsequent project activities. The full version of it is available within the [interim report](#).

What Are Our Next Steps?

The RLA team plans to commence the following project activities:

- business/industry engagement and related use case optimisation
- negotiating access to prioritised and new information sources
- consultation with key stakeholders and early partners towards further adopting (and/or refining) the Shared Strategic Framework, as opportunities arise

- the development and release of a pilot RLA platform, planned for end of November, covering initially available information sources.

The May 2024 release of a minimum viable product is still planned, at which point an updated gap analysis and roadmap for further development will be released.

How Do I Get Involved?

First, [register your interest](#) via the project webpage to receive further updates and information about events from the RLA project. Details of any future seminars or workshops will also be available via [ARDC Events](#). If you are unfamiliar with RLA or would just like to follow our progress, we recommend registering your interest and attending future seminars. We also welcome you to reach out to the ARDC to contact the project team for a further discussion on how you might get involved.

More About RLA

The RLA project is a government funded initiative, delivered by the ARDC as part of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

The RLA project aims to provide an information platform and strategic framework to boost the success of services and activities that are linking universities and research organisations with businesses, industry and government. The project is part of the Government's increased support for collaboration between research and industry, vital for Australian innovation, driving productivity and economic growth, improving quality of living and planet health.

Learn more about [Research Link Australia](#).