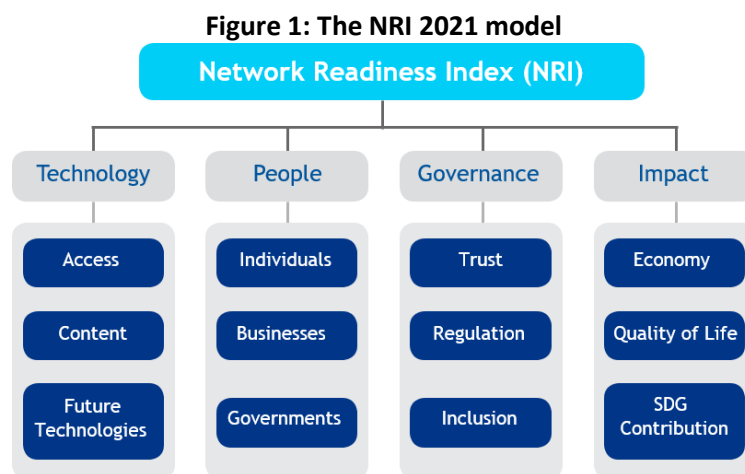


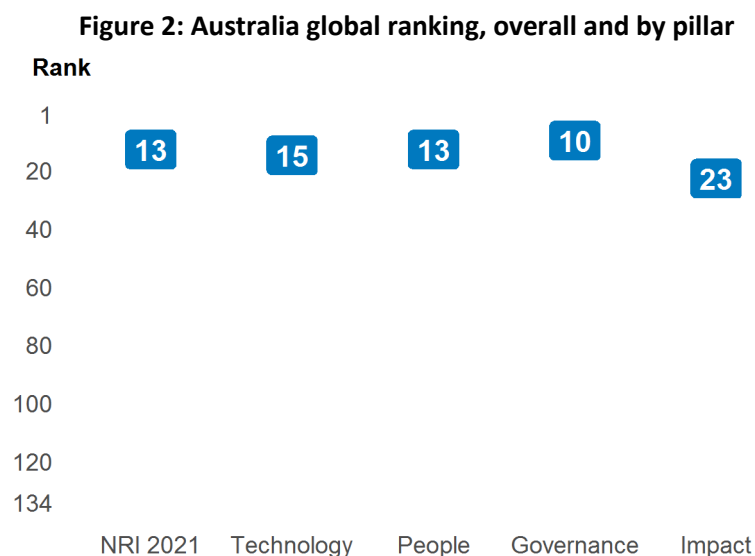
# Network Readiness Index 2021 Australia

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in economies around the world. In its latest version of 2021 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 130 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. Each of these pillars is itself comprised of three sub-pillars (see Figure 1) that have been populated by a total of 60 variables.



## Global NRI position of Australia

Australia ranks 13th out of the 130 economies included in the NRI 2021 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Governance. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Impact.



### Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Australia relate to Access, Individuals and Trust, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Businesses, Future Technologies and Economy sub-pillars.

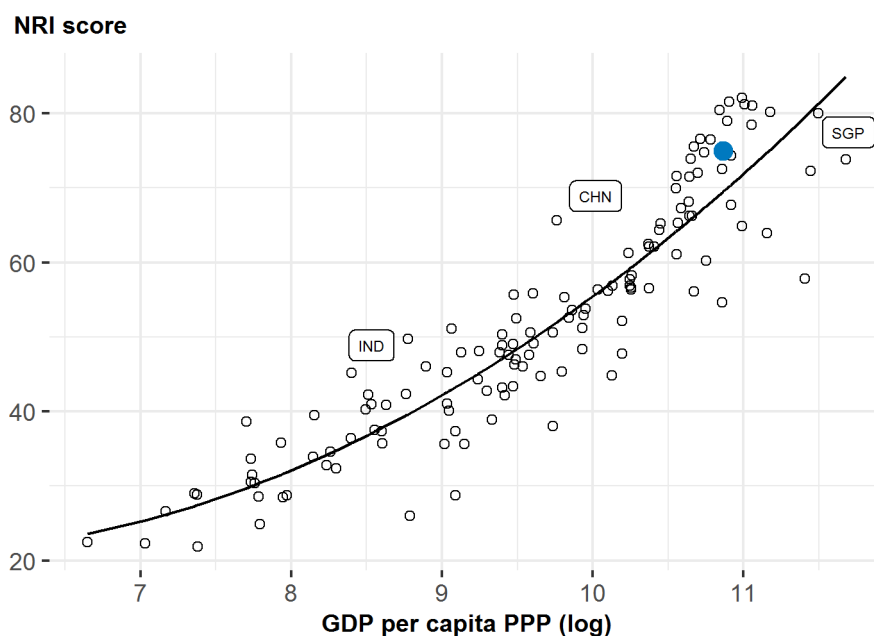
**Table 1: Australia rankings by sub-pillar**

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Access	1	Regulation	14
Individuals	7	SDG Contribution	14
Trust	8	Quality of Life	17
Content	11	Businesses	20
Inclusion	11	Future Technologies	30
Governments	12	Economy	38

### NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Australia in terms of both NRI score and GDP per capita (PPP). The trend line shows the expected NRI score given an economy's income level. As can be seen, Australia is well above the trend line, which suggests that it has a greater network readiness than would be expected given its income level.

**Figure 3: NRI score and GDP per capita PPP (log)**



Note: NLD = Netherlands (rank: 1), SWE = Sweden (2), DNK = Denmark (3), CHN = China (29), IND = India (67). USA is ranked 4th. Australia belongs to the group of high-income countries, where the best performer is Netherlands (NLD). The top performer of its region-Asia & Pacific is Singapore (SGP).

## Performance against its income group and region

### High-income countries

Australia is ranked 13th in the group of high-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in ten of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

### Asia & Pacific

Australia is ranked 3rd within Asia & Pacific (Figure 4, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it has a higher score than the regional average in each of the twelve sub-pillars.

**Figure 4: Performance of Australia against its income group and region, overall and by pillar**



**Table 2: Australia scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar**

Dimension	Australia	High-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	74.96	67.45	54.38
Technology	71.41	62.99	50.01
People	72.10	62.65	51.22
Governance	85.07	75.52	58.01
Impact	71.27	68.63	58.28

### Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Australia performs particularly well include 1.1.2 Handset prices, 1.1.7 Internet access in schools, and 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 4.1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person engaged, 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, and 4.1.6 ICT services exports.

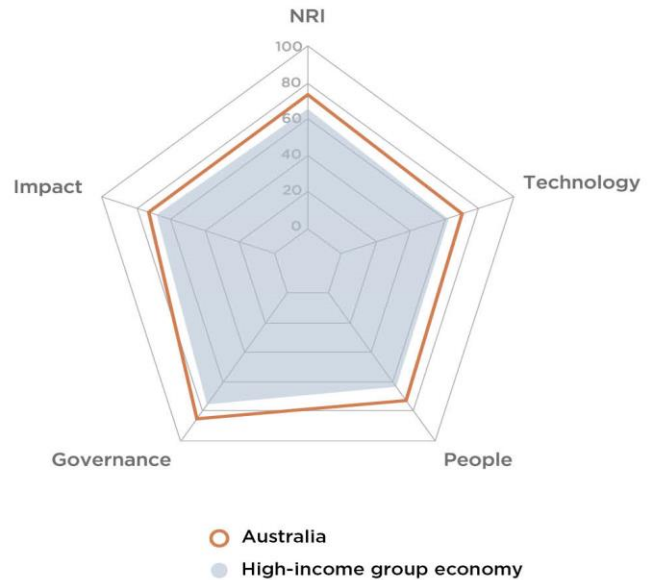
**Table 3: Strongest and weakest indicators of Australia**

<b>Strongest indicators</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Weakest indicators</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1.1.2 Handset prices	1	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	70
1.1.7 Internet access in schools	1	4.1.6 ICT services exports	77
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	79
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	2	4.1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person engaged	85
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	3		
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	4		
2.2.5 Annual investment in telecommunication services	6		
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	6		
2.3.1 Government online services	7		
3.3.3 Availability of local online content	8		
1.2.3 Internet domain registrations	10		
3.1.4 Internet shopping	10		

# Australia

**Network Readiness Index** Rank (out of 130) **13** Score **74.96**

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
<b>A. Technology pillar</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>71.41</b>
1st sub-pillar: Access	1	93.64
2nd sub-pillar: Content	11	73.31
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	30	47.27
<b>B. People pillar</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>72.10</b>
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	7	79.18
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	20	60.69
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	12	76.42
<b>C. Governance pillar</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>85.07</b>
1st sub-pillar: Trust	8	87.03
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	14	84.54
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	11	83.65
<b>D. Impact pillar</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>71.27</b>
1st sub-pillar: Economy	38	47.90
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	17	84.49
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	14	81.43



## Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score
<b>A. Technology pillar</b>	15	71.41
<b>1st sub-pillar: Access</b>	1	93.64
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	17	82.07
1.1.2 Handset prices	1	100.00 ●
1.1.3 Households with internet access	41	86.25
1.1.4 SMS sent by population 15-69	NA	NA
1.1.5 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	44	99.87
1.1.6 International Internet bandwidth	NA	NA
1.1.7 Internet access in schools	1	100.00 ●
<b>2nd sub-pillar: Content</b>	11	73.31
1.2.1 GitHub commits	12	59.95
1.2.2 Wikipedia edits	21	79.36
1.2.3 Internet domain registrations	*	* ●
1.2.4 Mobile apps development	16	95.29
1.2.5 AI scientific publications	12	72.52
<b>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</b>	30	47.27
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	15	82.33
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	24	65.76
1.3.3 Robot density	24	20.47
1.3.4 Computer software spending	61	20.51
<b>B. People pillar</b>	13	72.10
<b>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</b>	7	79.18
2.1.1 Active mobile broadband subscriptions	29	82.07
2.1.2 ICT skills	NA	NA
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	26	80.15
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	3	75.33 ●
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	NA	NA
<b>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</b>	20	60.69
2.2.1 Firms with website	18	82.01
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	NA	NA
2.2.3 Professionals	18	53.66
2.2.4 Technicians and associate professionals	31	55.89
2.2.5 Annual investment in telecommunication services	6	90.51 ●
2.2.6 GERD performed by business enterprise	22	21.39
<b>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</b>	12	76.42
2.3.1 Government online services	7	94.55 ●
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	6	81.10 ●
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	36	51.38
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	10	78.66

Indicator	Rank	Score
<b>C. Governance pillar</b>	10	85.07
<b>1st sub-pillar: Trust</b>	8	87.03
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	18	84.52
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	17	97.43
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	11	79.37
3.1.4 Internet shopping	10	86.81 ●
<b>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</b>	14	84.54
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	4	92.16 ●
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	11	94.71
3.2.3 Legal framework's adaptability to emerging technologies	17	70.66
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00 ●
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	70	65.16 ○
<b>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</b>	11	83.65
3.3.1 E-Participation	9	96.30
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	10	96.18
3.3.3 Availability of local online content	8	93.01 ●
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	35	65.98
3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	64	66.79
<b>D. Impact pillar</b>	23	71.27
<b>1st sub-pillar: Economy</b>	38	47.90
4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	49	30.02
4.1.2 High-tech exports	57	29.58
4.1.3 PCT patent applications	25	71.09
4.1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person engaged	85	52.24 ○
4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	11	82.16
4.1.6 ICT services exports	77	22.30 ○
<b>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</b>	17	84.49
4.2.1 Happiness	13	84.10
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	31	89.95
4.2.3 Income inequality	47	74.48
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	22	89.42
<b>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</b>	14	81.43
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	2	96.72 ●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	20	67.32
4.3.3 Females employed with advanced degrees	21	74.88
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	79	72.84 ○
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	19	95.38

NOTE: \* Indicates confidential data; ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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