

# Getting the right advice: forming a Research Data Advisory Group for effective stakeholder consultation

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

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# Complexity

Research environments, projects

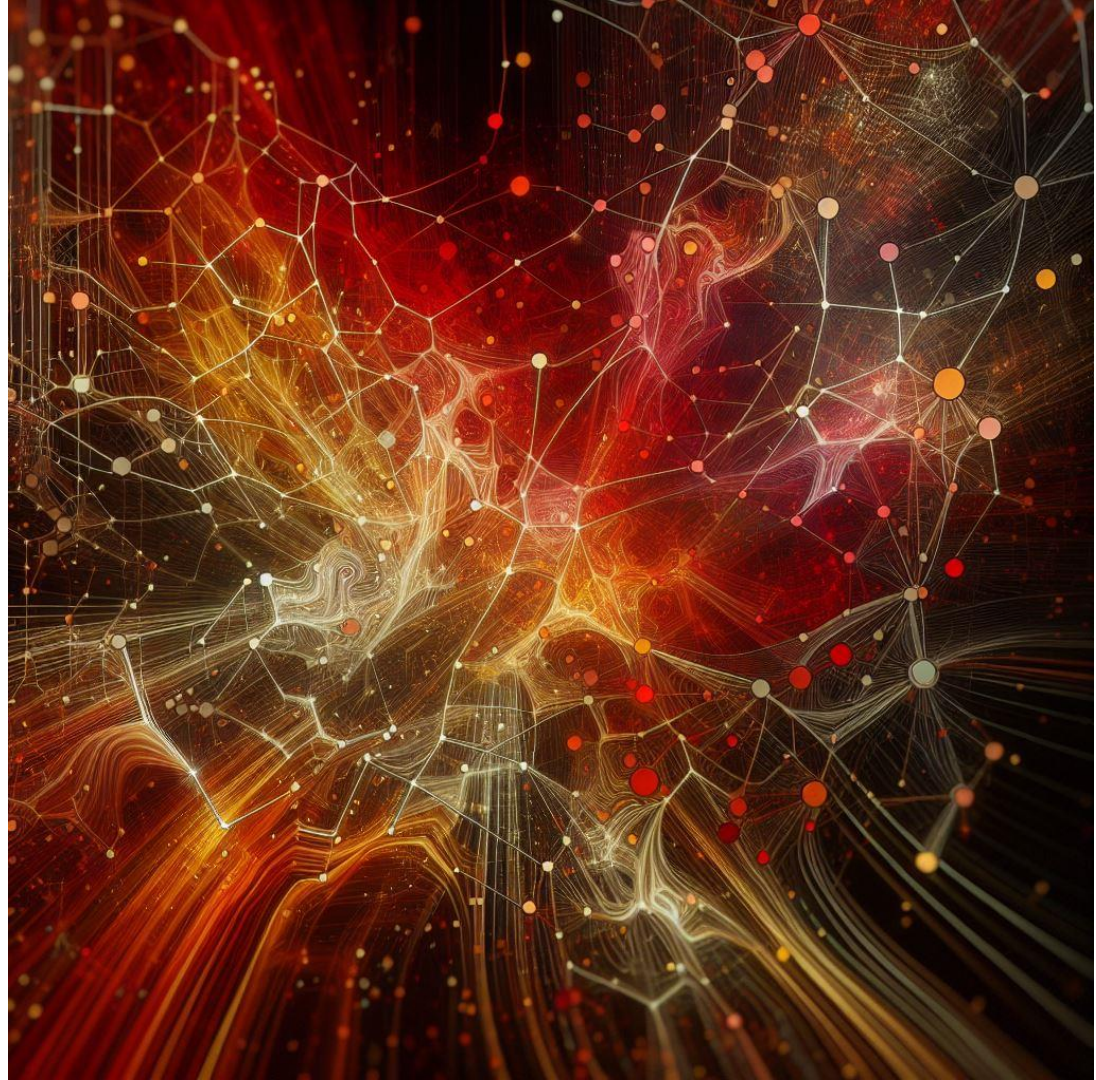
Research data

Infrastructure

Corporate structures

Legal/policy framework

- Governance, compliance



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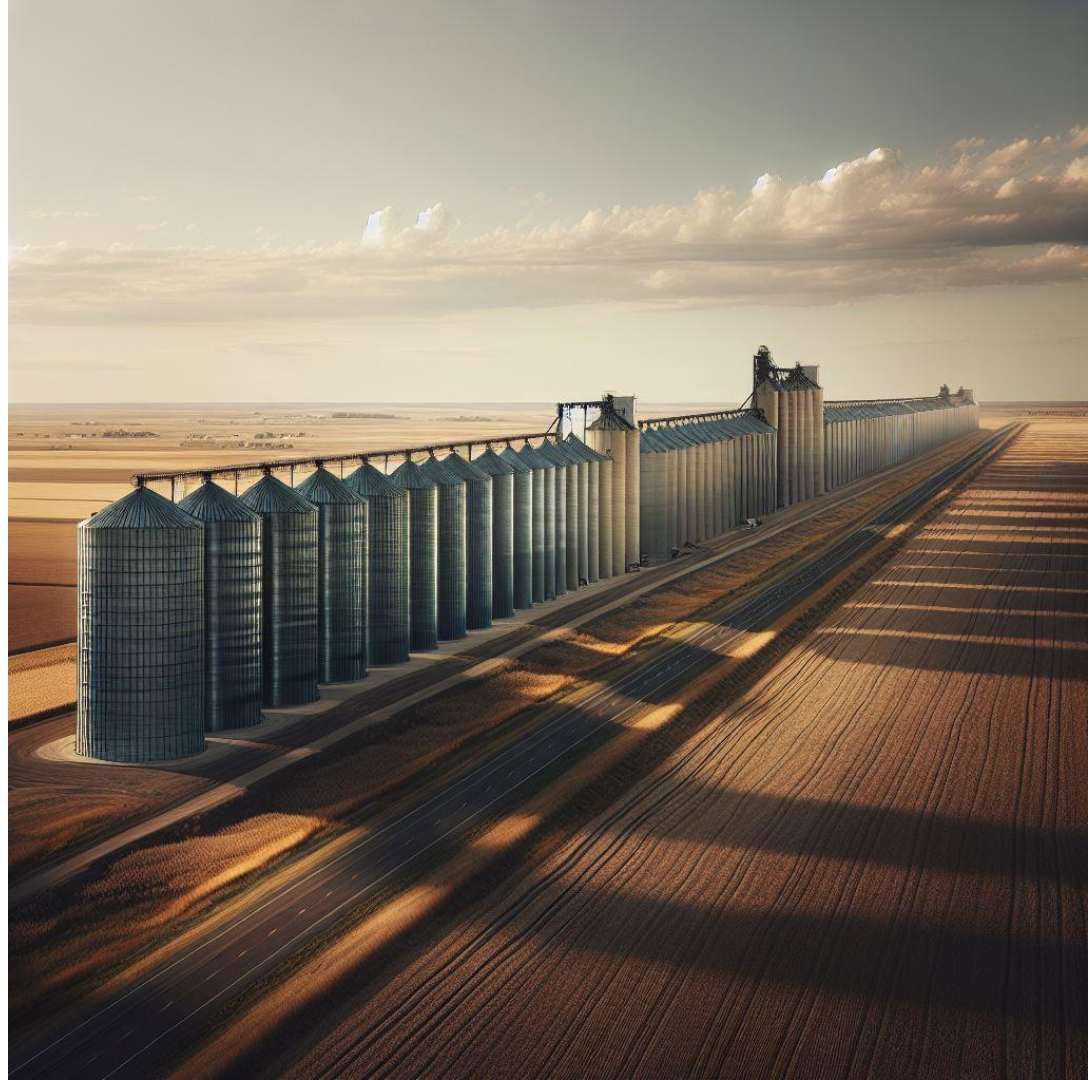
# Silos

## Organisational silos

- Faculties/schools
  - researchers, research groups
- Administration units - 'the institution'
  - IT
  - Research Office
  - Library
  - Archives
  - Research Facilities

## Operational silos

- systems, platforms, tools
  - Research
  - Research admin
  - Corporate



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# Complexity x silos = ?

**What is the answer?**

Effective engagement with multiple stakeholders

Communication,  
consultation



Identification of  
shared objectives



Agreed solutions



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# Introducing RDAG – Research Data Advisory Group

*The purpose of the Research Data Advisory Group is to develop and determine long-term strategies to optimally manage the university's research data assets (the digital inputs and outputs from all research projects)*

- Will identify new processes, roles and systems required to improve the university's governance and oversight of research data
- Will align with strategic plan, divisional initiatives
- Comprises senior academic and professional staff representatives, led by PVC
- RDAG will consult broadly, large pool of stakeholders
- Lead culture change within research and admin communities

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## RDAG focus areas



### Data accessibility

Enable sharing and publication of research data



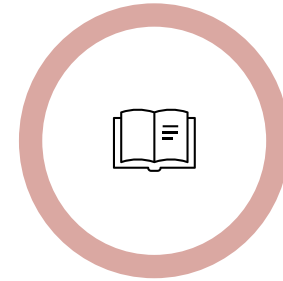
### Tools and platforms for RDM

Identify, consult and advise on systems for data collection, analysis, storage, interoperability



### Risk management

Identify & mitigate/address risks posed by poor RDM e.g. around emerging technology, security, privacy



### Regulatory changes

Data governance and compliance, policy

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# Who is in RDAG?

## Chaired by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research

- Assoc Deans Research from all faculties
- PVCs Research Infrastructure, Research Training
- Senior leaders from
  - IT (including Cybersecurity)
  - Strategy
  - Library
  - Policy
  - Corporate analytics
  - Privacy, archives
  - Office of General Consul
  - Research Integrity & Ethics
  - Research risk & security
  - Defence research
  - Sydney Informatics Hub/core research facilities



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## How does RDAG work?

### ***Meets quarterly***

- to discuss current issues
- projects
- regulatory changes that impact researchers, risks, compliance
- new initiatives, changing data landscape, opportunities

### ***Out of session***

acts as a reservoir of informed, concerned stakeholders for:

- consultations, Tiger Teams, working groups
- referrals, funding recommendations executive
- active CoP = communication/engagements with faculties, researchers, departments



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# Progress, achievements

Convened since April 2023

Inform, consult, action and progress:

- Commissioning a TRE
- Adopting PIDs capability into research admin system refresh, re-scoping
- Sponsoring research data governance framework project
- Promoting risk-aware use of Generative AI in research communities
- Extending scope of biobanks, biospecimens



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## Culture change, awareness

Encouraging researchers to participate in consultation

Increased awareness of importance of data governance, why it's needed and what it does

Appreciation and understanding of risk associated with research data

Recognition that policy refresh is needed, data governance framework required

**Increased connectivity between the silos**



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## Is it sustainable?

### Requires:

leadership from senior personnel who have organisational responsibility for research data

ongoing active commitment to organise, attend, participate

support roles to administer (secretariat), personnel to action, monitor progress

action, outcomes, progress, results! This is not a talk fest



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Success? Or failure?

**Successful work-in-progress!**



Any questions?