

Oceania's Tech Frontier: Quantum Leaps, AI Governance, and Green Energy I

Technology · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. What significant investment did the Australian National Reconstruction Fund Corporation (NRFC) make in March 2026 to bolster the nation's quantum computing and atomic-scale semiconductor manufacturing capabilities?

- A) A \$50 million investment in a new quantum research institute.
- B) A \$20 million investment in Silicon Quantum Computing (SQC), a Sydney-based leader in the field.**
- C) A \$15 million investment in a quantum sensing startup.
- D) A \$25 million investment in a national quantum computing cloud platform.

2. In February 2025, Fiji launched its National E-commerce Strategy 2025-2029. Which Australian program provided support for this initiative?

- A) The Australian Digital Economy Initiative.
- B) The Pacific Digital Economy Programme (PDEP).**
- C) The Australian Trade and Investment Commission's E-commerce Support.
- D) The Australia-Pacific Connectivity Fund.

3. Which Australian research institution has developed a novel light-powered chip aimed at accelerating advancements in AI and quantum computing, by generating, directing, and reading information carried by light within a single chip?

- A) The University of Sydney
- B) The University of Queensland
- C) Monash University**
- D) The Australian National University

4. What is the primary focus of the 'Project for Innovative Solutions for Pacific Climate Change Resilience,' a joint initiative involving SPREP, the Government of Samoa, and JICA?

- A) Developing advanced marine navigation systems for the Pacific.
- B) Strengthening the Pacific Climate Change Centre's capacity to promote innovative climate change solutions.**
- C) Establishing a regional network of climate-resilient data centers.
- D) Implementing large-scale desalination projects across Pacific Island nations.

5. As of early 2026, how many Space Tech startups are identified in Australia, with a notable number having secured Series A+ funding?

- A) Approximately 50 startups, with 10 in Series A+.
- B) Approximately 76 startups, with 12 in Series A+.**
- C) Approximately 60 startups, with 8 in Series A+.
- D) Approximately 90 startups, with 15 in Series A+.

6. New Zealand's National AI Strategy, unveiled in 2025, aims to boost productivity and transform various sectors. What is the projected economic contribution of AI to New Zealand's GDP by 2038, according to industry research?

- A) NZD 50 billion
- B) NZD 76 billion**
- C) NZD 65 billion
- D) NZD 88 billion

7. Papua New Guinea's Kumul Telikom announced in November 2025 a nationwide 4G upgrade across 14 provinces. What is a key objective of this initiative?

- A) To exclusively focus on enhancing fixed-line internet services.
- B) To increase wholesale data costs to fund infrastructure improvements.
- C) To dramatically improve rural telecommunications coverage and lower wholesale data costs.**
- D) To phase out mobile services in favor of satellite internet.

8. Australia achieved a significant renewable energy milestone in late 2025, sourcing over 50% of its electricity from renewables. Which technology played a decisive role in enabling reliable operation at this high penetration level?

- A) Advanced geothermal energy systems.
- B) Large-scale deployment of grid-scale battery energy storage systems (BESS).**
- C) Offshore wind farms with real-time AI management.
- D) Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) with long-duration storage.

9. New Zealand is providing NZD 10 million over five years to support Pacific countries in developing national cybersecurity strategies. What is a key outcome of this initiative for the region?

- A) To establish a single regional cybersecurity defense force.
- B) To encourage greater adoption of blockchain technology for data security.
- C) To secure infrastructure and data, enhance online safety, and implement cyber-crime laws.**
- D) To provide direct funding for individual cybersecurity software purchases.

10. Fiji's National Digital Strategy 2025-2030 includes AI governance and cybersecurity measures. Which international support is mentioned for formulating Fiji's National Cybersecurity Strategy and developing a Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT)?

- A) The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- B) The Australian government, under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).**
- C) The European Union.
- D) The Asian Development Bank (ADB).