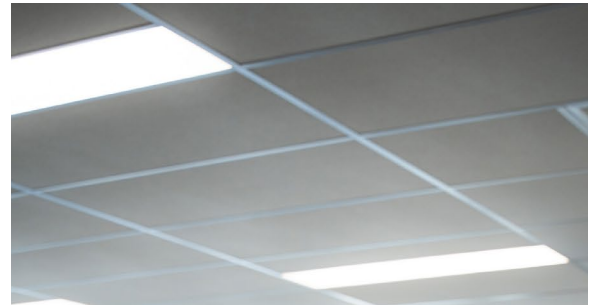
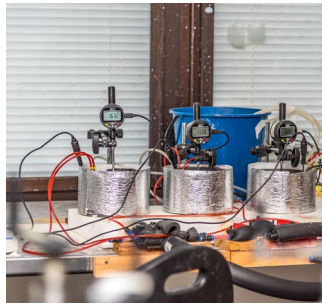


# Regional Universities Network: 2024 Brazil, Chile, and Colombia Clean Energy and Sustainability Symposium

MARCH 2024



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## WHO ARE RUN?

RUN is the peak body for seven regionally headquartered universities. The RUN Secretariat advocates for regional universities and regional policies while raising the profile of member institutions and identifying opportunities for collaboration, both domestic and abroad.

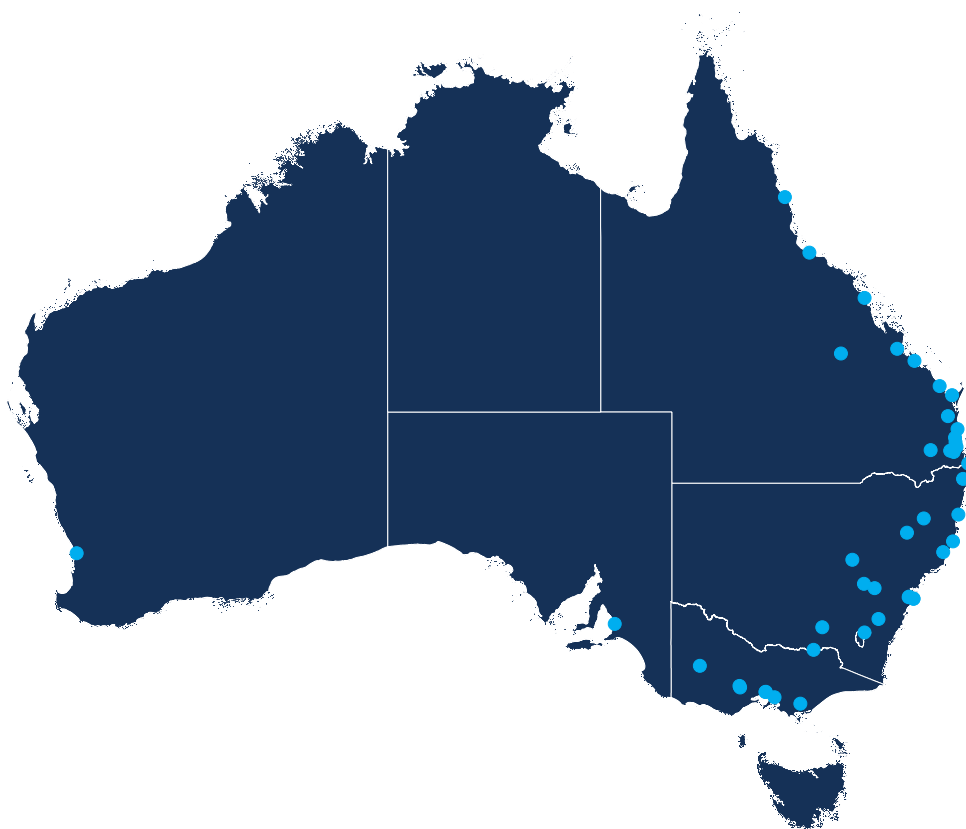
RUN engage in a range of activities to help achieve the objectives of our network:

- develop policy papers and government submissions across various policy areas relating to tertiary education, research and regional development
- liaise with ministers, members of parliament and senior government officials

- to provide advice on government policy
- promote the contributions of member universities to regional and national development
- undertake joint projects to advance the educational, research and management outcomes of the member universities.

RUN's members are:

- Charles Sturt University
- CQUniversity
- Federation University
- Southern Cross University
- University of New England
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Southern Queensland.



## PROFILE OF RUN UNIVERSITIES

Across the approximately 40 campuses of RUN universities, RUN universities enrol over 160,000 students. This represents approximately 11 per cent of all students studying in Australia.

Regional university campuses provide nation leading learning and teaching, and highly skilled workforces to regional communities in addition to engaging in transformational place-based research to the betterment of Australia's regional communities.

RUN universities enrol the highest numbers of Indigenous Australians, of students from low socio-economic backgrounds, and students from regional, remote, and rural Australia.

RUN universities lead the country in the research fields of:

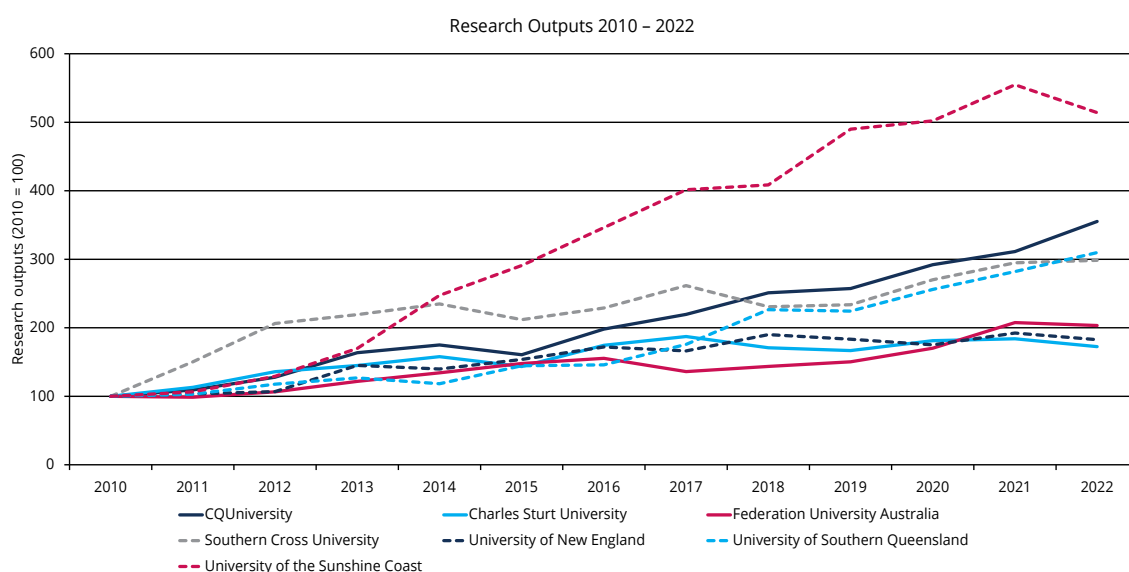
- Environmental science and management
- agriculture and veterinary sciences
- agriculture, land and farm management
- fisheries and forestry sciences.

RUN universities conduct research above the world standard in the majority of research fields including:

- Engineering
- nursing
- astronomical and space sciences
- geology
- oceanography
- technology
- neurosciences.

## REGIONAL RESEARCH OUTPUT

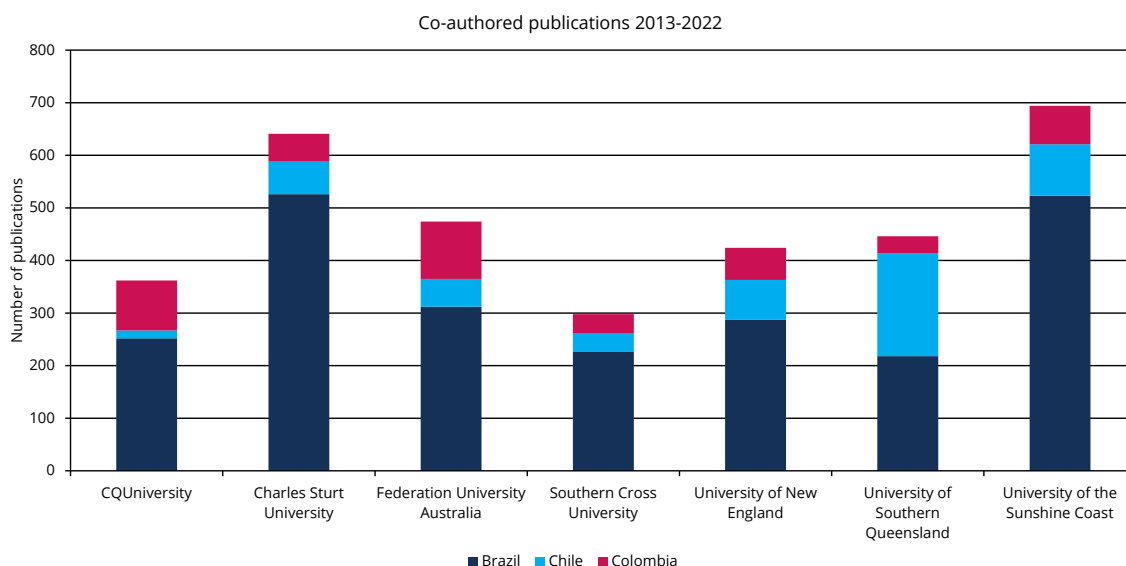
Research outputs from RUN universities has drastically increased since 2010, with the pace of outputs increasing in recent years. The increasing outputs are not at the expense of quality.





## REGIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

RUN universities have been increasing their co-authored publications with universities from Brazil, Chile, and Colombia.



## DELEGATE

Alec Webb is the Executive Director at the Regional Universities Network (RUN) where he advocates for and champions the impact and importance of regional higher education.

Alec has more than 10 years of experience as a leader and collaborator in a variety of sectors including the public service, higher education advocacy and economic and public policy consulting within Australian and the United Kingdom. He holds a Master of Business Administration from University of Queensland, a Master of Management from the Australian National Universities and a Bachelor of Business and Finance from Queensland University of Technology



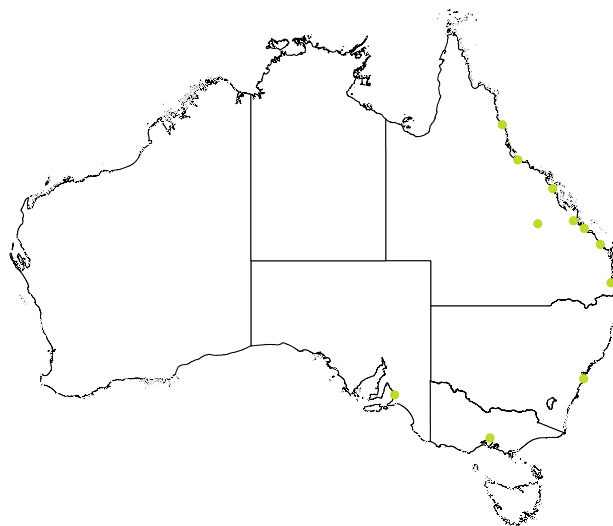
## ABOUT

CQUniversity was founded in 1989 but has a history that traces back to 1967 and has 11 campuses across Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

CQUniversity is ranked third for undergraduate and seventh for postgraduate full-time employment and starting salaries.

CQUniversity enrolled 22,620 students in 2021.

Read more here: <https://www.cqu.edu.au/>



## RESEARCH PROFILE



CQUniversity is ranked at world standard or above in over 8 broad fields of research including:

- Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences
- Environmental Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Engineering

CQUniversity has significant research institutes in the theme of sustainability and clean energy including:

- Centre for Hydrogen and Renewable Energies
- Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre
- Centre for Regional Economies and Supply Chains

## DELEGATES

### **Leslie Walker**

Director, Office of Research  
Office of the Vice-President - Research

As Director of the Office of Research my role is to lead and oversee the delivery of high quality, efficient, and end-user focused research support services to ensure effective management of the University's research activities, including funding application strategies, grants management, human and animal ethics, research integrity and research policy.



### **Professor Colin Cole**

Director of the Centre for Railway Engineering

Colin's work history includes over 32 years working for and with the Australian rail industry. Since then he has been focused on a research and consulting career. Colin has been extensively engaged with industry via the past Rail CRC programs and has continuing involvements via the Australian Centre for Rail Innovation (ACRI).

His recent work has focussed on exploring hydrogen fuel cell and battery freight locomotive options, hybrid and hydrogen technologies for railway operations, hydrogen technologies and engineering solutions.



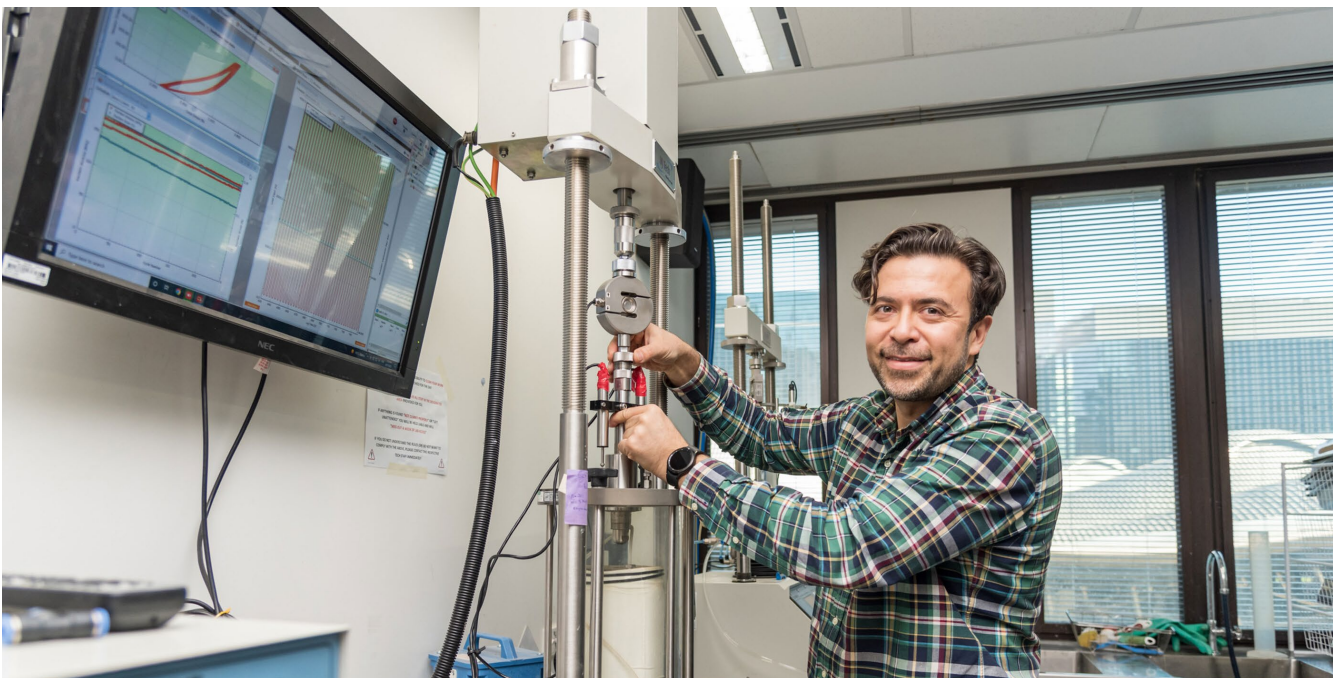


**Paul Hodgson**

Executive Director Regional Futures – Energy Transitions, and Director of the Centre for Hydrogen and Renewable Energies

Prior to 2024, Paul was Interim CEO of a bid for a Scaling Green Hydrogen Cooperative Research Centre, where he led the development of a ten-year research and training program, attracting 97 partners from 12 countries and \$AU 163m of cash and in-kind support. Paul previously worked at NERA, where he led the development of a national network of regional hydrogen technology clusters.

Paul has a Master of Sustainable Development, a Bachelor of International Business, and is a Certified Advisory Board Chair.



## ABOUT

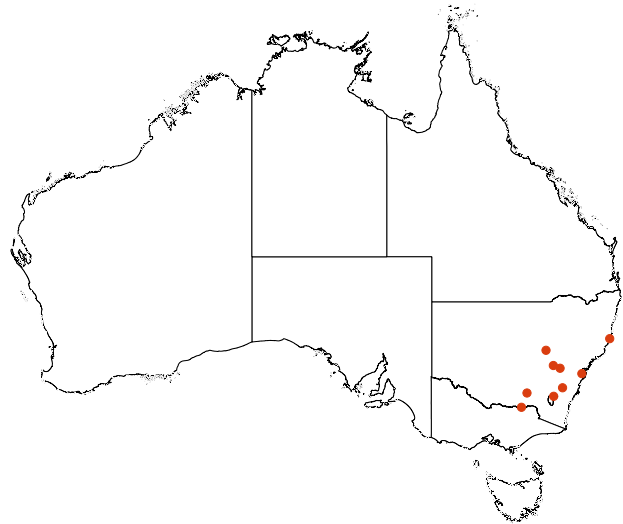
Charles Sturt University was founded in 1989 but has a history that traces back to 1895 and has nine campuses across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Charles Sturt University is ranked number one in Australia for undergraduate employment and undergraduate starting salaries.

Charles Sturt University is also Australia's first certified carbon neutral university.

Charles Sturt University enrolled 40,385 students in 2021.

Read more here: <https://www.csu.edu.au/>



## RESEARCH PROFILE



Charles Sturt University is ranked world class and above in the following broad fields of research:

- Physical Sciences
- Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences
- Environmental Sciences
- Information and Computing Sciences
- Education
- Studies in Human Society
- Philosophy and Religious Studies

Charles Sturt University has significant research institutes in the theme of sustainability including:

- Cool Soil Initiative
- Global Digital Farm
- Dung Beetle Ecosystem Engineers





## DELEGATES

### **Professor Michael Friend**

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation  
Gulbali Institute – Agriculture, Water and Environment

Michael is a highly experienced researcher, having secured in excess of \$10m in external grant income as Principal Investigator. He has led several national programs and projects, spanning fields of animal nutrition, farming systems research and participatory action research.

He led the Future Farm Industries CRC New Livestock Systems Program between 2010-14, and more recently as Director of the University's largest research Centre, the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation between 2015-18.



### **Professor David Watson**

Professor in Ecology, Gulbali Institute – Agriculture, Water and Environment

Dave is a community ecologist, working across a wide range of topics within Australia and in various parts of the Neotropics. His current research interests fall into four broad areas: connectivity conservation, ecological interactions between parasitic plants and animals, biodiversity survey methods and habitat restoration.

Dave leads a group of environmental scientists, sociologists and Indigenous scholars in the Gulbali Institute. He works at the interface of ecosystem science and land management, and is the pre-eminent authority on mistletoe ecology worldwide





**Chelsea Schlink**

Director Business Development  
Gulbali Institute – Agriculture, Water and  
Environment

Chelsea is an innovative leader specialising in strategy and engagement. She actively expands the institute by forging partnerships with the community, industry, and government leaders, focusing on key research areas such as agricultural innovation, biosecurity, biodiversity, cultural stewardship, and sustainable aquatic systems.

Chelsea drives research initiatives and is focused on advancing the institute's mission for research with impact. She has worked in local government, education and the health sector.



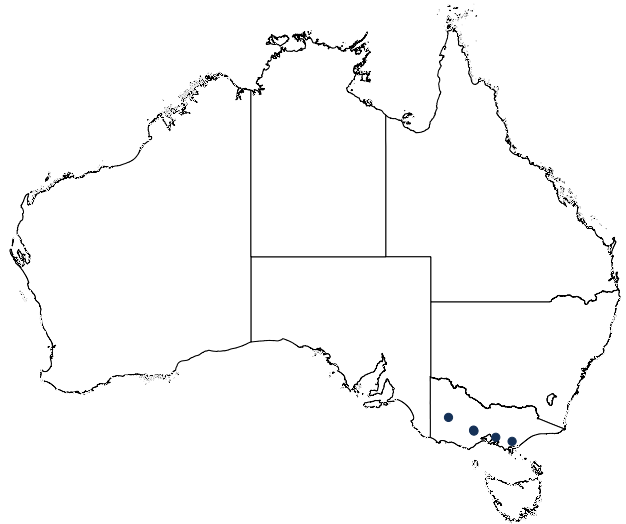
## ABOUT

Federation University Australia was formed when the former University of Ballarat and the Gippsland Campus of Monash University were amalgamated in 2014, but has a history that traces back to 1870. Federation University Australia has four campuses across Victoria.

Federation University Australia is one of the top 200 young universities in the world.

Federation University Australia enrolled 13,866 students in 2021.

Read more here: <https://federation.edu.au>



## RESEARCH PROFILE



Federation University Australia is ranked world class and above in the following fields of research:

- Environmental Science and Management
- Environmental Sciences
- Artificial Intelligence and Image Processing
- Civil Engineering
- Clinical Sciences
- Studies in Human Society
- Nursing

Federation University Australia has significant research institutes in the theme of sustainability and the clean energy transition including:

- Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation
- Future Regions Research Centre
- Centre for New Energy Transition Research
- Centre for Smart Analytics



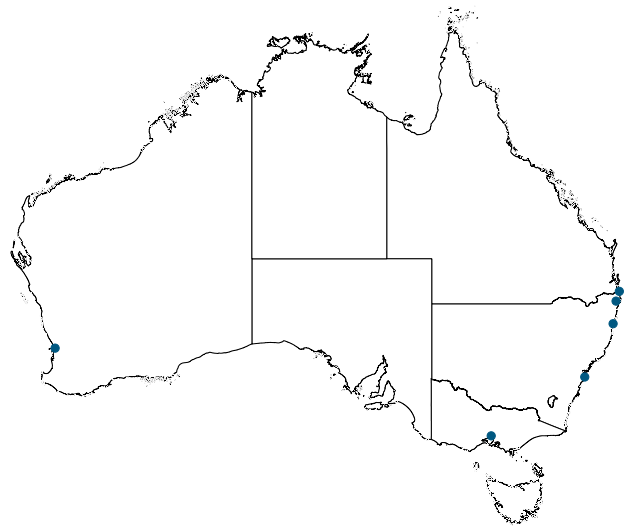
## ABOUT

Southern Cross University was established in 1994 and has six campuses across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia.

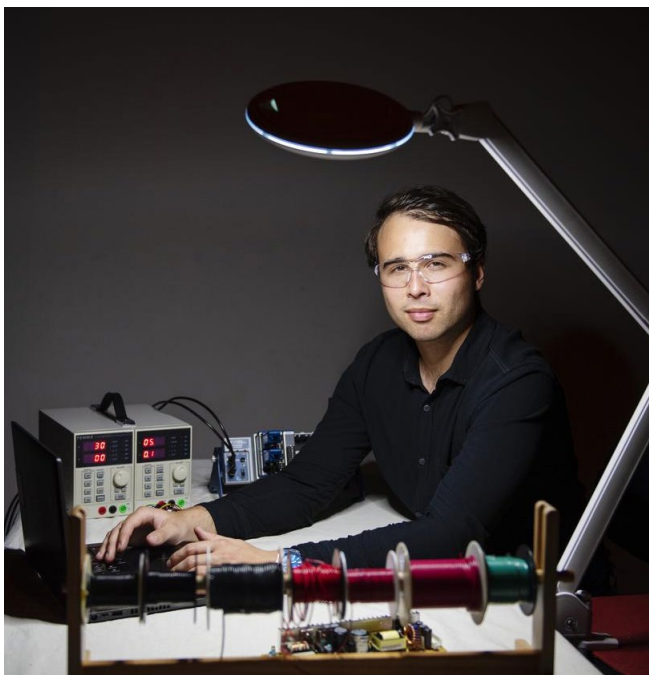
Southern Cross University was ranked first in Australia for Overall Experience, Student Support, Learning Resources, Teaching Quality and Skills Development in Engineering and Technology.

Southern Cross University enrolled 18,676 students in 2021.

Read more here: <https://www.scu.edu.au>



## RESEARCH PROFILE



Southern Cross University is ranked well above world standard in the following fields of research:

- Earth Sciences
- Agriculture and Veterinary Science
- Oceanography
- Ecology
- Crop and Pasture production
- Fisheries Sciences
- Forestry Sciences
- Geochemistry
- Resources Engineering

Southern Cross University has the following research impact clusters:

- Harvest to Health
- Zero Waste
- Reefs and Oceans
- Catchments, Coasts and Communities

## DELEGATES

### **Professor Mary Spongberg**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research

As the Southern Cross University Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), Professor Mary Spongberg has strategic responsibility for all research functions, including government and industry partnerships and research training. She is directly responsible for the Office of Research, the Graduate School, Research Institutes and the Environmental Analysis Laboratory (a commercial research enterprise).

Professor Spongberg is a renowned researcher and author in the areas of women's and gender history, literary history and historiography.



### **Professor Bronwyn Barkla**

Associate Dean of Research for the Faculty of Science and Engineering

Bronwyn received her Master's (1989) and Ph.D.(1994) in the Department of Botany at the University of Toronto and carried out Post-doctoral research in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Oxford.

Bronwyn has been applying proteomics technologies to advance knowledge in plant abiotic stress tolerance. Recent work has focused on understanding the role and regulation of membrane proteins and lipids in plant salt and heavy metal tolerance.



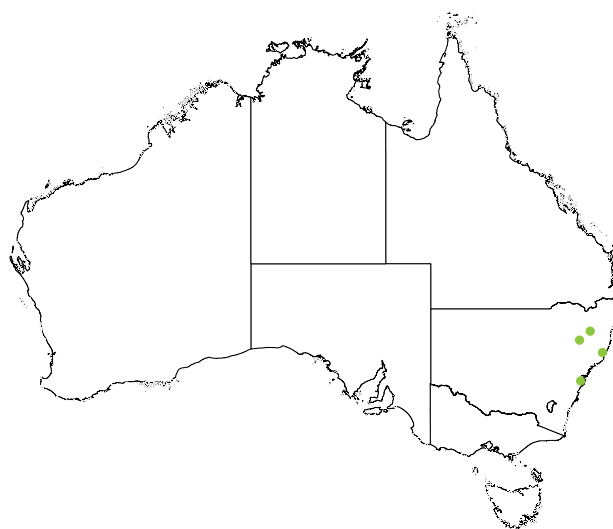
## ABOUT

The University of New England became a university in 1954, but has history tracing back to 1938. The University of New England has four campuses across New South Wales.

The University of New England was the first Australian university established outside a capital city and pioneered teaching to external students by correspondence, making it Australia's most experienced provider of distance and now online education.

The University of New England enrolled 23,691 students in 2021.

Read more here: <https://www.une.edu.au>



## RESEARCH PROFILE



The University of New England is ranked well above world standard in 18 fields of research including:

- Environmental Sciences
- Ecology
- Genetics
- Evolutionary Biology
- Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences
- Human Movement and Sports Science

The University of New England has the following research centres and institutes:

- Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit
- Centre for Agribusiness
- Centre for Local Government
- Centre for Rural Criminology
- Cotton Hub at UNE
- Palaeoscience Research Centre
- PoultryHub Australia

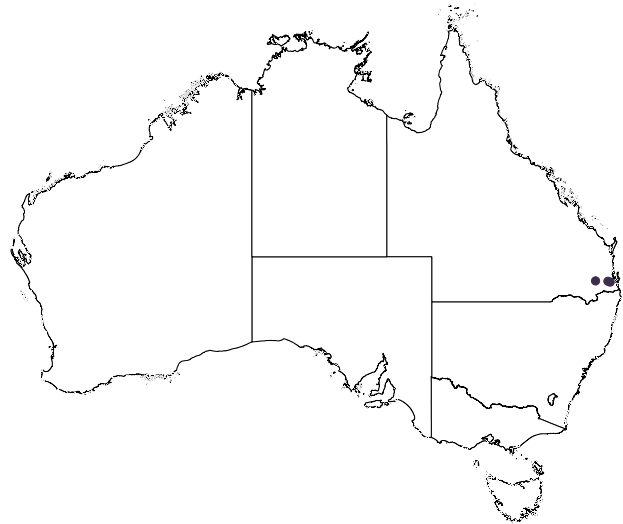
## ABOUT

The University of Southern Queensland became a university in 1992, but has history tracing back to 1969 and has four campuses in Queensland.

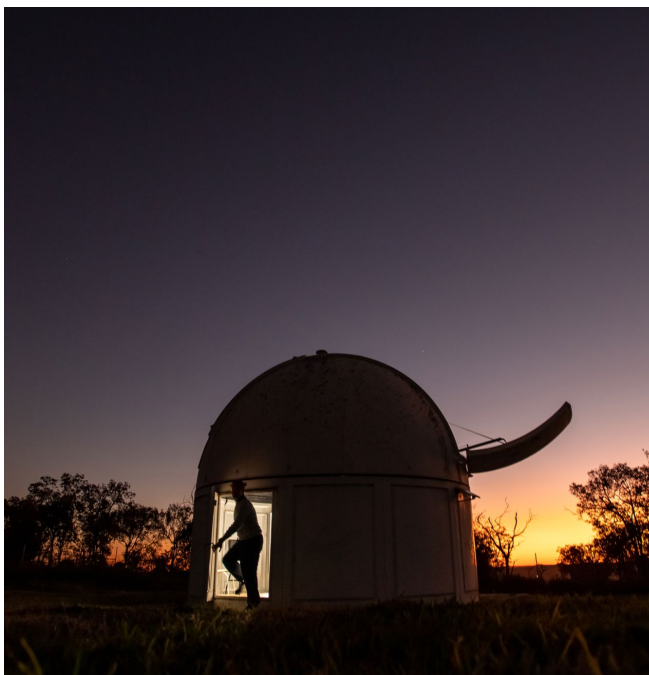
In 2017, the University of Southern Queensland won the Green Gown award for its approach to sustainability focusing on renewable energy, waste reduction, water retention, and integration of sustainability into strategic planning.

The University Southern Queensland enrolled 24,701 students in 2021.

Read more here: <https://www.unisq.edu.au>



## RESEARCH PROFILE



The University of Southern Queensland is ranked well above world standard in 18 fields of research including:

- Physical Sciences
- Astronomical and Space Sciences
- Environmental Science and Management
- Agriculture, Land and Farm Management
- Crop and Pasture Production

The University of Southern Queensland has the following research centres and institutes:

- Centre for Astrophysics
- Centre for Agricultural Engineering
- Centre for Future Materials
- Institute for Advanced Engineering and Space Sciences
- Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment
- Institute for Resilient Regions



## DELEGATES

### **Professor John Bell**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Research and Innovation

John works to enhance the University's research profile, its research performance and its culture of research excellence and quality research training. He oversees a coordinated focus on fostering collaborations and partnerships with government, industry and the research community, within Australia and around the world to deliver applied research outcomes that have global impact. Professor Bell has led projects in the development of energy efficient smart windows, dye-sensitised solar cell development, and carbonaceous materials. He also has expertise in the area of energy efficiency and occupant comfort in buildings.



### **Ms Guie Hartney**

Executive Director – International

Guie has 20 years experience in establishing international networks across several industries, including significant experience in diplomatic representation for Australia nationally and internationally.

Superior knowledge of the education export industry (School, VET, ELICOS and Higher Education) from both a government and private provider perspective including: legislative frameworks, entry pathways, stakeholder engagement, research and recruitment strategies, and program development.





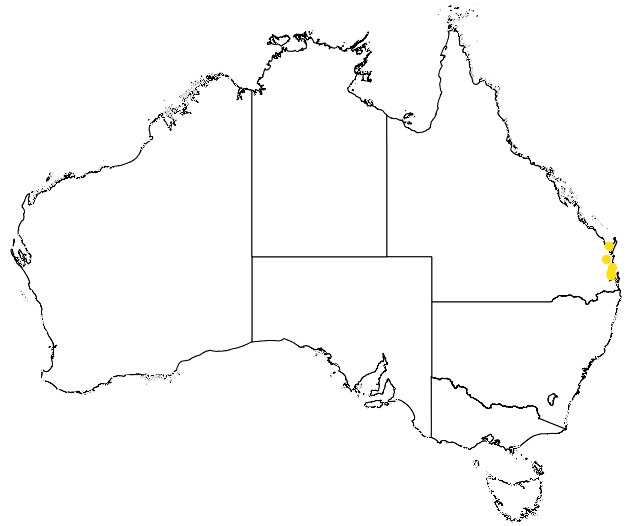
## ABOUT

The University of the Sunshine Coast became a university in 1996, and has five campuses across south east Queensland.

The University of the Sunshine Coast ranked an equal 29 out of 1591 institutions globally in the 2023 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

The University of the Sunshine Coast enrolled 18,251 students in 2021.

Read more here: <https://www.usc.edu.au/>



## RESEARCH PROFILE



The University of the Sunshine Coast is ranked well above world standard in 13 fields of research including:

- Environmental Sciences
- Ecological Applications
- Environmental Science and Management
- Ecology
- Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences
- Fisheries Sciences
- Forestry Sciences

The University of the Sunshine Coast has the following research centres and institutes:

- Forest Research Institute
- Centre for Bioinnovation
- Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research

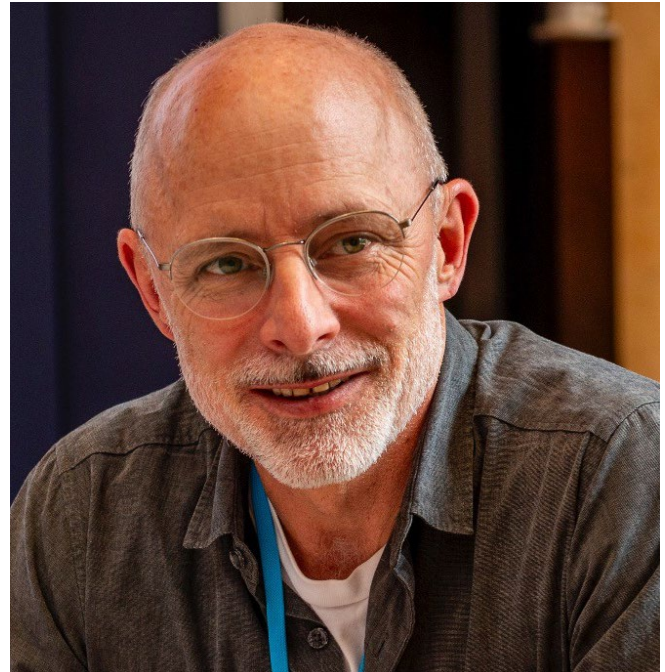
## DELEGATES

### **Professor David Schoeman**

Professor, Global-Change Ecology

Dave is a quantitative ecologist whose research focuses on identifying and quantifying ecological consequences of climate change at scales from the very local to global, and on designing strategies to minimise the loss of ecosystem services

Dave contributes to several international collaborations with the aim of developing numerical methods for predicting the rearrangement of marine ecological communities under climate change, and for including this knowledge into marine conservation planning initiatives.



### **Professor Mark Brown**

Director, Forest Research Institute, Director, Forest Industries Research Centre, Professor of Forestry Operations

Mark was a researcher with the Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada (FERIC). His research focused on forest transportation efficiency and road maintenance management. Mark has provided research and solutions in forest operations for the Australian forest industry.

Mark's research areas include:

- Forest transport efficiency
- Forest supply chain management and optimisation
- Biomass supply chain efficiency
- Driving innovation from applied research





**For further information please contact  
RUN on [info@run.edu.au](mailto:info@run.edu.au)**

