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RUN FORMS NETWORK OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCHERS

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) will hold a major workshop at Southern Cross University's Gold Coast Campus on 19 – 20 July to build capacity and collaboration between its members in research and community engagement.

The Chair of RUN, Professor David Battersby, said that the workshop will forge a network of researchers in regional development, and examine the impact of research and community engagement undertaken by RUN institutions.

"RUN universities have great strategic strength in regional development. The workshop will build links across the network between researchers to address the big issues, develop synergies and encourage multidisciplinary research," Professor Battersby said.

The Chair of the RUN Research Group, Professor Annabelle Duncan, said that collaboration around issues in economic development, enterprise and innovation, environment and sustainability, health and wellbeing, social impacts and education would be examined.

"A vibrant network of regional development researchers in RUN institutions will be formed," Professor Duncan said.

The workshop will also examine ways in which the impact of research and community engagement is being measured by RUN institutions and consider ways in which this can be enhanced. It will examine approaches being used by other institutions.

"RUN universities are committed to enhancing their capacity and sustainability through greater collaboration as a network of like-minded institutions. They play a key role in the economic, social, cultural and environmental development of their communities," Professor Battersby said

"Regional research investigating resource and environmental management, economic rejuvenation and development, and community integration and service provision, is an important way of advancing knowledge, sharing insights, and building capacity in the national interest."

RUN university members generate \$1.2 billion in annual income and more than \$2 billion in annual regional investment.

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