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RUN WELCOMES FOCUS ON IMPACT OF RESEARCH

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) believes the development of new impact measures will be a step forward in our assessment of the value of research, according to its Chair, Professor David Battersby.

The Minister of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research, and Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, announced on November 28 that the Government's Australian Research Committee would develop a set of research impact measures.

Professor Battersby also congratulated the ATN-Go8 universities for their Excellence in Innovation trial which found that there are compelling stories that need to be told of research impact arising from research at Australian universities.

"Regional universities perform strongly in strategically focused, impact-driven research embedded in the regions but of national and international significance," Professor Battersby said.

Speaking at the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science and Research workshop on Research Impact Assessment, the Incoming Chair of the RUN Research Group, Professor Frank Stagnitti, said that research at regional universities focused on pressing concerns associated with the food and water security, climate change, social cohesion, health and wellbeing, environmental and resource management, and technology.

"We better need to capture the impact of our research on both a local and broader scale. Our research is a fundamental part of our universities' economic, social and cultural impact on our regions. We support the Government's plans for assessment of the impact of research, and urge that this process is undertaken in a way that does not place a significant added burden on universities," Professor Stagnitti said.

The Government has also released the 2012 National Research Investment Plan which offers a comprehensive blueprint for Australia's research future.

Professor Battersby said: "Research relevant to regional Australia must be a key part of the research future of the nation".

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