

**13 SEPTEMBER 2013**

## **RUN CHAIR HAILS MERGER MILESTONES FOR MEMBERS**

Two RUN member universities marked significant milestones this week with CQUniversity formally merging with CQ TAFE and royal assent being given to legislation establishing the University of Ballarat as Federation University Australia.

RUN Chair Peter Lee said the CQUniversity merger would establish Queensland's first dual-sector university while the creation of Federation University Australia would bring together the University of Ballarat and the Monash University Gippsland campus to form the first federated institution of its kind in Australia.

"All RUN members work hard to open up new pathways into higher education and both of these mergers will bring new opportunities for the communities that they serve," Professor Lee said.

"I congratulate Professor Scott Bowman at CQUniversity and Professor David Battersby at Federation University Australia for successfully negotiating the complex issues involved in bringing about such momentous changes for the higher education sector in rural and regional Australia.

"The aim for CQUniversity is to open up new pathways from vocational to higher education and many degree students will have the option of completing vocational trade qualifications while doing their degree.

"The University of Ballarat is already a dual-sector institution and the formation of Federation University Australia from January 1, 2014, aims to support the economic development of regional Victoria and develop new ways of delivering courses that better suit regional communities including better and closer connections with other regional education providers, especially TAFE Institutes."

### **For media enquiries:**

Dr Caroline Perkins, Executive Director, Regional Universities Network, 0408 482 736

Issued by: Aaron Hall, RUN Media Adviser, 0408 482 736

[www.run.edu.au](http://www.run.edu.au)