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RESEARCH WELCOMES MORE CONSULTATION ON UNIVERSITY REFORMS

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the decision by the Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, to delay any changes to university funding for at least a year and to further consult on the higher education reforms.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Jan Thomas, said the sector needed certainty and that it was unrealistic at this stage to implement any reforms in 2016.

“The sector needs a considered approach that will work in the long term with respect to funding and support for higher education and research. We therefore welcome the Minister’s decision to further consult on reform options,” Professor Thomas said.

“RUN strongly supports the Minister’s commitment to find a way to sustainably fund the demand-driven student system, and his support for access, quality and equity in higher education. All are important to continue to grow participation at university by regional Australians.

“It is also vital that regional universities continue to grow their research effort in areas of national and strategic importance, including in collaboration with industry,” Professor Thomas said.

“RUN looks forward to the Minister’s response to the reviews of research infrastructure, research funding and policy and research training, which, in the national interest, should take into account the needs of regional Australians and their universities.”

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