

**4 DECEMBER 2015**

## **RUN'S ERA 2015 OUTCOME – WORLD CLASS RESEARCH THAT IS ENGAGED WITH THE REGIONS**

The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2015 outcome for the Regional Universities Network (RUN) shows that outstanding, world class, fundamental research is undertaken by our universities in areas of regional, strategic relevance.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Jan Thomas, said that RUN was delighted with its results and that its universities had excelled in a range of fields including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, environmental science, health, psychology, engineering and maths.

“The ERA outcomes show that excellent fundamental and engaged research are not mutually exclusive – we do both at our regional universities. As well as undertaking outstanding research in areas of regional significance, RUN has a broad, world standard, research capacity which provides a robust basis for innovation in regional Australian industries and communities. It gives our undergraduate students broad exposure to a vibrant research environment and attracts academics of world renown to our universities,” Professor Thomas said.

“RUN has experienced remarkable growth in the excellence of the research conducted by our members. Compared to ERA 2012, ERA 2015 shows about a three-fold increase in disciplines rated well above world standard, a more than a six-fold increase in disciplines rated at above world standard, and a one-and-a-half-times increase in fields rated as at world standard.

“RUN universities have received the highest rating in ERA 2015 (5, well above world standard) in areas such as: agriculture and veterinary science, including agriculture, land and farm management, animal production, and crop and pasture production; forestry sciences; fisheries; ecology; zoology; environmental science and management, including soil science; geochemistry and geology; oceanography; human movement and sports science; nursing; complementary and alternative medicine; other medical and health sciences; psychology and cognitive science; mathematical sciences, including applied mathematics; and materials engineering.

“Research rated as above world standard (4) includes: earth sciences, biological sciences, including evolutionary biology; pure mathematics; artificial intelligence and image processing; civil and mechanical engineering; resources engineering and extractive metallurgy; medical and health sciences and psychology.

“Our universities have achieved world standard (3) in a wide range of fields including in education; tourism; chemical sciences; creative arts and writing; philosophy; human geography; political science; law; language, communication and culture; linguistics; history

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

and archaeology; and historical studies,” Professor Thomas said.

“ERA 2015 truly demonstrates the exceptional value of the research in our regional universities which benefits the nation.”

**For media enquiries:**

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

Issued by: Diana Streak, RUN Media Adviser, 022 536 064

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