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RUN WELCOMES TURNBULL GOVERNMENT'S NEW MINISTERS

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the Turnbull Government's new ministers, and notes the strong representation from regional Australia in the line-up.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Jan Thomas, warmly welcomed the appointment of: the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP as Deputy Prime Minister, and his continuation as Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources; Senator the Hon Fiona Nash to Cabinet as Minister for Regional Development, Regional Communications and Rural Health; the Hon Steve Ciobo MP, as Minister for Trade; the Hon Darren Chester MP, as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; Senator Scott Ryan, as Minister for Vocational Education and Skills; the Hon Alan Tudge MP, as Minister for Human Services; Senator the Hon Matt Canavan, as Minister for Northern Australia; and the Hon Angus Taylor MP, as Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, Cities and Digital Transformation.

"These portfolios are of key importance to regional Australia. There will be continuity in the important agriculture and water portfolio with the new Deputy Prime Minister retaining these areas," Professor Thomas said.

"We welcome the comprehensive nature of Minister Fiona Nash's portfolio, which will provide a great opportunity for a joined up approach to communications, regional development and health in regional Australia. We hope that the key role of universities will be recognised in this configuration, and that our ability to deliver education, research and service to the regions will be enhanced.

"RUN also looks forward to working with the other new Ministers in areas of importance to the regions.

"We acknowledge the great contributions made by the Hon Warren Truss MP, the Hon Andrew Robb MP, and the Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP, in their former portfolios," Professor Thomas said. "We further congratulate the other appointees to the Turnbull Government's Ministry."

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