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## **RUN SUPPORTS NATIONAL REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGY**

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) supports a National Regional Higher Education Strategy.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, said that RUN opposes the passage of the Higher Education Support Legislation Amendment (HESLA) Bill due to the negative impact it would have on regional universities, students and communities.

“We would, however, support an amendment to develop a National Regional Higher Education Strategy,” Professor Hill said.

“RUN is developing a framework for such a strategy. As anchor institutions for their regions, regional universities contribute to human and intellectual capital, research and innovation, global connectivity, regional solutions and exporting regional expertise. The already significant contribution our institutions make will be further enhanced through a strategy which better harnesses the capacity of regional universities to be facilitators of economic and social regeneration.

“Such a strategy should support the provision of higher education in regional areas. It should include a review of regional loading, work to increase the representation of regional students in higher education, provide support for those transitioning between secondary and higher education, provide encouragement for regional students to stay in regional areas, and deliver strategies to support the role of regionally based higher education providers in creating diverse and resilient regional economies,” Professor Hill said.

“RUN encourages Senators to consider a National Regional Higher Education Strategy during the debate on the HESLA Bill.”

### **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)