

12 OCTOBER 2018

**RUN WELCOMES LANDMARK CONFERENCE
REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES - ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS TRANSFORMING THEIR REGIONS**

Members of the Regional Universities Network (RUN) are greatly looking forward to participating in the Regional Universities Conference, Anchor Institutions Transforming their Regions conference, to be held at Southern Cross University, Gold Coast, and 18-19 October.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, said that the conference, organised by Higher Education Services and supported by RUN, would explore the broad contribution that regional universities make.

"As anchor institutions, that are not-for-profit organisations embedded in their local communities, regional universities and campuses play a major role in their region's economies, and their social and cultural development," Professor Hill said.

"More than 15 Australian regional universities and campuses, and two from the United Kingdom, will be represented at the conference.

"Issues that will be explored include: how regional universities change the lives of their students, their families and communities, through broadening participation at university and providing graduates who largely work in the regions; the student and Indigenous experience; our contribution to research and innovation; collaboration with regional industry; our international connections; our contribution to regional health, culture and sport; and our broader economic and social contribution.

"We will hear from leaders from regional universities, regional students and graduates, Indigenous academics and students, experts in regional innovation and research, policy experts and writers, and local and national politicians.

"A place-based and joined up approach is needed which integrates higher education with broader tertiary and secondary education, research, innovation, employment, and immigration policies and programs to enhance and tailor their delivery to better suit the needs of the regions," said Professor Hill.

"But, more than that, such an approach will serve the national interest – economic disparity and social cohesion must be addressed for the national good."

The conference details are available at: [/www.hes.edu.au/events/regional-universities-anchor-institutions-transforming-their-regions](http://www.hes.edu.au/events/regional-universities-anchor-institutions-transforming-their-regions)

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