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SOLUTION TO URBAN PRODUCTIVITY - INVEST IN THE REGIONS

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) believes that more investment in the regions is one solution to Australia's ever growing urban sprawl which is hitting productivity, according to its Chair, Professor David Battersby.

The State of Australian Cities 2012 Report, launched by The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, on December 4, finds that not enough homes are being built near jobs and transport hubs and more workers need to commute long distances to CBDs.

"Regional Australia plays a key part in Australia's national prosperity and productivity and could contribute even more with further Government investment in key infrastructure and regional development, easing congestion in our capital cities," Professor Battersby said.

"A third of Australians live in regional Australia, a proportion which is increasing. Regional universities provide the most direct and cost-effective way of contributing to productivity by further harnessing talent, developing skills and contributing knowhow to our regions for the benefit of all Australians.

"RUN supports incentives to attract metropolitan students to regional universities. Sixty-six per cent of those trained in the regions find employment in regional locations, thereby investing professional skills, qualifications and knowhow in regional Australia.

"The contribution that regional universities make in terms of human capital, economic, social, cultural and environmental development enhances the productivity of the regions and takes pressure off the overstretched infrastructure in our largest cities," Professor Battersby said.

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