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CHANGES TO THE ARC ACT STRENGTHEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the legislative amendments in the Australian Research Council (ARC) Amendment (Review Response) Bill 2023.

Executive Director of RUN, Alec Webb said the proposed changes not only strengthen the integrity of the ARC but increase the transparency with which the ARC operates.

“The acceptance of the recommendations in the Independent ARC Review by the Government is a red-letter day for Australia’s research sector that demonstrates the Government’s commitment to an independent world-leading research process.

“Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Minister, especially in relation to the Ministerial veto powers, the remit of the ARC Board and the ARC CEO is an essential step in increasing the operational strength, transparency, and perception of Australia’s essential research sector,” said Mr Webb.

RUN is particularly pleased to see the adoption of RUN’s recommendation to include a dedicated appointee to the ARC board that represents the needs/opportunities of regional Australia.

“A dedicated ARC Board Member that understands regional Australia and who can represent the unique perspectives and opportunities of regional, rural, and remote Australia will result in an increased diversity of opinion, expertise, and ultimately will increase the chances for regional Australia to further benefit from the world leading research occurring at regional universities,” said Mr Webb.

RUN looks forward to working constructively with the Government, the ARC, and other stakeholders in ensuring Australia’s research system, processes and reputation continues to be the envy of the world.

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