MEDIA RELEASE

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RUN appoints inaugural Executive Director

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) has announced the appointment of Dr Caroline Perkins as its inaugural Executive Director.

Dr Perkins is currently a Branch Manager in the Research Division within the Commonwealth Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. She will take up the position of Executive Director in February 2012.

During the past 15 years, Dr Perkins has held senior positions in the public service in Canberra. She has a BSc (Hons) from the University of Melbourne and a PhD in geology from the University of New England. She has also been a post-doctoral researcher at the Australian National University.

Professor David Battersby, the Chair of RUN and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ballarat, said Dr Perkins was an ideal candidate for the new position.

“Dr Perkins is well known in the higher education sector and has extensive knowledge of regional universities and the particular opportunities and challenges that face them,” Professor Battersby said.

“Her appointment has been greeted with enthusiasm by the Regional Universities Network Vice-Chancellors.

“Under her leadership, RUN will become a vigorous advocate for regional universities throughout Australia.”

Dr Perkins said she was delighted with her appointment as the inaugural Executive Director of RUN.

“Regional universities have a key role to play in Australian higher education and research and I look forward to making a significant contribution to advancing the institutions”, Dr Perkins said.

The Regional Universities Network was established in October. The foundation members are CQUniversity, Southern Cross University, University of Ballarat, University of New England, University of Southern Queensland and University of the Sunshine Coast. It has three key objectives:
1. To provide policy advice to government, particularly with regard to tertiary education and regional development.

2. To strengthen and promote the contributions of regional universities to regional and national development.

3. To build institutional capacity and sustainability through the sharing of best practice in educational delivery, training, research and organisational management, particularly with reference to regional contexts.

Contact:

Professor David Battersby  
Chair, Regional Universities Network  
03 5327 8500  
0448 382 973  
d.battersby@ballarat.edu.au

Matthew Freeman  
Senior Adviser  
Media and Government Relations  
University of Ballarat  
03 5327 9510  
0408 519 674  
m.freeman@ballarat.edu.au