

MEDIA RELEASE
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RUN Supports McGowan on Regional Higher Education

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) strongly endorses Cathy McGowan MP's motion on regional universities before the House of Representatives, and the need for a National Regional Higher Education Strategy.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, said that Ms McGowan was to be congratulated on raising these issues in the context of the debate on the Government's higher education reform bill.

"Ms McGowan recognises the pivotal role that regional universities play in the economic, social and cultural development of their regions. Education is the major driver of economic development and should not be seen in isolation from other regional development issues," Professor Hill said.

"Students who study in the regions are much more likely to work in the regions. As noted by Ms McGowan, RUN data shows that about three quarters of its universities' graduates work in regional Australia, and, by contrast, regional students who study in the capitals are much less likely to return to the regions.

"RUN opposes the passage of the higher education reform bill. It does not adequately take into account the key role that regional universities and regional students play in the development of regional Australia," Professor Hill said.

"A National Regional Higher Education Strategy would ensure that regional higher education is prioritised and taken into consideration in Government policy."

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