RUN welcomes consultation to revamp regional development

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) welcomes the announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, The Hon Warren Truss MP, and the Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon Michael McCormack, MP, that the Government will consult on revamping regional development policy.

The Chair of the Regional Universities Network (RUN), Professor Jan Thomas, said that more formal recognition of the role of regional universities in regional development policy was vital for promoting innovation in regional Australia.

“Regional universities are fundamental contributors to the economic, social and cultural development of their regions through their teaching of students, research and broader engagement activities with regional industries and communities,” Professor Thomas said.

“Regional innovation is the key to developing regional economies and we are pleased that the consultations will focus on nurturing innovation in consultation with regional business and the academic community.

“Regional development policy should complement the Innovation and Science agenda.

“We encourage the Government to include digital infrastructure as part of its consideration of infrastructure support for the regions,” Professor Thomas said.

“RUN looks forward to proving input into the Government’s consultation process for the regional development policy paper.”

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