MEDIA RELEASE
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RUN endorses Universities Australia’s Keep it Clever policy statement

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) today backed a new call for a ‘game changing’ national investment strategy in wealth-generating research and innovation.

The call for a bold new research and innovation investment is the centrepiece of Keep It Clever – the university sector’s pre-election policy blueprint, released today by peak body Universities Australia.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Jan Thomas, said that as Australia heads into an era of change on a scale not seen since the industrial revolution, there is an urgent need to invest now in research, skills and ingenuity to transform our industries – and create and fill the jobs of the future.

“With 40 per cent of existing jobs tipped to disappear within two decades, particularly in regional Australia where there is a relatively high proportion of low skilled jobs, university education and research – and stronger collaboration between industry and university researchers – will be vital to generate new jobs, new industries and new sources of income for Australia,” Professor Thomas said.

“To remain competitive, our workforce will demand more qualified graduates, our economy will rely on the creation of new companies, industries, jobs and opportunities that can only come from a strong university sector. It is critical that regional Australia, its communities and universities are part of this.

“People who go to university in the regions largely stay in the regions to work, and investing in our regional universities will enhance regional development for the good of the nation.

“RUN strongly supports the policy principles in the Keep it Clever statement. In particular accessibility is vital to increase the proportion of regional Australians going to university.

“We know that investing in our universities is investing in Australia’s future,” Professor Thomas said.

The Keep it Clever policy statement is available at keepitclever.com.au

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