Dr Caroline Perkins, the inaugural Executive Director of the Regional Universities Network (RUN), has begun her appointment this week.

Professor David Battersby, inaugural Chair of RUN and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ballarat, said Dr Perkins will be an outstanding advocate for regional universities throughout Australia.

“Caroline Perkins is ideally placed to capitalise on the opportunities and challenges that regional universities face,” Professor Battersby said.

“Under her leadership, the Regional Universities Network will be critically engaged in the higher education issues of our time.”

Dr Perkins, formerly a Branch Manager within the Federal Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, will be based in Canberra.

Prior to fifteen years working in the public sector, Dr Perkins’ academic career included being a post-doctoral researcher in geology at Australian National University. She also has a PhD in geology from the University of New England.

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 last year. 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.

The Members of the Regional Universities Network will work in collaboration to pursue 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