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Building Regional Research Systems Across Australia

Driving Sustainable National Prosperity: Building Regional Research Systems Across Australia, published today by the Innovative Research Universities (IRU), sets out a framework for Australia's universities to fuel national economic growth and prosperity across all regions of Australia.

Regions are important drivers of sustainable national growth.

There is an urgent need to make better use of the potential from the breadth of the country, for example from its northern regions, to reduce the pressure on the major cities and create positive outcomes for all current and future Australians.

The creation of major new research infrastructure and the use of the Medical Research Future Fund are two crucial coming decisions for the Government where it must ensure a whole of Australia focus to get the most value from both.

Building Regional Research Systems Across Australia makes 7 recommendations for regional research systems that ensure that valuable research is conducted throughout Australia (see below).

Acting on these recommendations will provide the base for IRU members to create stronger clusters of researchers and research end users across Australia outside of the large capital cities. This will give substance to Greg Hunt, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science's ambition for more clusters (CEDA State of the Nation Address, 10 October 2016).

IRU members are embedded in the outer metropolitan areas of the State capitals and in Australia's regional areas. Our research is crucial to building regional research systems and clusters across Australia.

Through the creative mix of local issues and global research challenges, IRU members across Australia generate research with benefits for communities and industries around the world.

Driving Sustainable National Prosperity: Building Regional Research Systems Across Australia is the third publication in the IRU Research Series. It is available for download [here](#).

Previous publications in the IRU Research Series are [Industry Driven Research](#) and [Strengthening Research Across Asia – An Asian Research and Innovation Network](#).

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Recommendations: Building Regional Research Systems Across Australia

Effective delivery of the university and innovation system

1. The development of the [2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap](#) should ensure that major research infrastructure developments are deployed across Australia with some elements based outside the major centres.
2. Innovation programs and incentives, including the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), should be effective across Australia to reach as many Australians as possible.

Evening up the playing field

3. To even up the opportunity for research from universities' regional bases, the regional loading should include a research element to the calculation.
4. There should be targeted incentives to reward regional engagement with research and innovation needs.

Developing regional capability

5. Ensure community and education services are of a comparable standard across Australia.
6. Reverse the order of roll out of new services to start some in regional areas to alter the perception of being regularly last and create incentives to be in such regions.
7. Ensure knowledge infrastructure is part of comprehensive regional strategies.