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Integrating international education into regional development strategy

Panel

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Value of international education to Australia (2014-15)

- **Contributes:**
  - Export revenue of $19.7 billion
  - $17.1 billion to Australia’s GDP
  - Australia’s third largest export
  - Supports over 130,700 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees
    - accounting for 1.3% of Australia’s total employment
  - Current stock of international students will contribute 130,000 skilled migrants to our workforce after they graduate

Deloitte Access Economics
International education presence in regional Australia

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<th>Benefits to regions</th>
<th>Benefits to students</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Growing and diversifying regional economies</td>
<td>• Low living cost</td>
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<td>• Increase in cultural understanding / support for multiculturalism and globalisation</td>
<td>• High accommodation availabilities</td>
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<td>• Improved cultural literacy and competency</td>
<td>• Safe and friendly environment</td>
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<td>• Social and cultural variety and linkages</td>
<td>• Access to work opportunities</td>
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<td>• Establishment of international connects – entrepreneurship, knowledge exchange,</td>
<td>• Closer interaction with local communities</td>
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<td>research, international collaboration, investment links</td>
<td>• Access to Australia’s natural environment</td>
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<td>• Diverse study offerings and distinct research areas</td>
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<td>such as agriculture, marine science and tropical medicine</td>
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<td>• Learning advantages; for example, smaller class sizes</td>
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Improving international education presence in regional Australia

NATIONAL:
“... promoting internationally the excellence and the advantages of education, training and research in regional Australia.”

QLD:
1. Stronger engagement
2. Support and inclusion in state-wide initiatives
3. Increase access and affordability of schools for international students dependants
4. Appropriate pathways from schools and VET
Improving international education presence in regional Australia (cont’d)

- Political lobbying – from national to local levels

- USQ Global Engagement Plan 2016-2020
  - Organise events on a consistent and frequent base that help in bringing international students and locals into engaging dialogues
  - Liaise with all divisions across USQ to ensure that there is a common understanding for promoting USQ as a regional university
  - Dynamic engagement with local government and community bodies
  - Actively advocate for establishing an organisation that tie together USQ with local education providers (initiation of ‘Study Toowoomba’)
  - Take active part in the competition for national and state funding for international Education
Part of a larger political agenda for regional Australia

- Battling myths that regional Australia is failing, lacks diversity and under-contributes
  - $10 billion growth for Toowoomba and Surat Basin by 2030

- Battling myths that burgeoning cities and shrinking regions are inevitable
  - $53b congestion
  - Incorporating small cities into the Cities Agenda
  - Building supertowns – “not a “tree change” or a “sea change” but a “city change”

- Coalition Policy for Jobs and Growth in Regional Australia
- Coalition education policy to benefit regional students
Smarter Regions, Smarter Australia (RUN)

The RUN Policy Plan:

- Regional education component:
  A holistic approach to funding and policy should be adopted across Government portfolios with respect to the support for regional students, regional communities and regional universities.

- Regional development component:
  RUN seeks the development of a comprehensive new strategy that recognises the role played by regional universities in facilitating and strengthening regional development.
Thank you