

# Maintaining a human focus while achieving our industrial objectives

## Issues Statement: CQU's Regional (Research) Priorities

### What is the University saying?

The Vision Statement currently reads:

Central Queensland University is tropical Australia's leading university *in environmentally sustainable land and water utilisation, industrially relevant engineering and contemporary communication*, with a commitment to continue proactive roles in promoting high standards in Indigenous and international education, distance education, flexible learning, innovative teaching and quality research.

The University has supported a 'regional' focus through its research funding by establishing the Institute for Sustainable *Regional* Development and funding this at a time when the 'research dollar' has been shrinking. In addition, it has supported the inter-relationships between potential regional industry partners through MOUs with Stanwell, through the various CRC initiatives, through Queensland Rail research and other partnerships. A substantial support (in terms of dollars) from Queensland State Development comes to the ISR and this investment is to value add to 'regional development' in its broad forms.

A number of the designated research centres focus their resources on regionally based research.

Currently the PVC Research and Academic, the AD Rs and Research Services Office are working on a draft strategic plan for the future of research and research training at CQU.

### What is the reality?

Funding from both DETYA and other sources (Including state government sources) are regionally focussed. The current push through major funding such as Networking the Nation, Natural Heritage Trust, Regional Development, AFFA etc. as well as the Industry Development Corporations are 'biased' towards regional/rural based research.

Increasingly, Universities such as UQ and Griffith (not to mention Melbourne and Sydney) who didn't count a 'regional purview' are getting in on the act. While once no one really 'cared' about CQ as a site of study - increasingly we are tripping over others around our region.

### What are the relevant issues for CQU?

We need to maintain a regional focus in research in order to establish a 'niche'. Currently the DETYA White Paper demands niche research and it is making it tough for regional universities to support the broad range of research undertaken within the sandstones.

We need to be aware of the potential that industry based research has to build our research training (ie postgraduate) cohort. We need to build our expertise so that nationally we are 'known'.