
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION and REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Regional Engagement Forum Victoria

presentation by

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Post-Secondary Education

- Higher Education (HE)
- Vocational Education and Training (TAFE)
- Life Experience (LE)



Regional Australia – A Way Forward

- Regional contraction and expansion
- Growth of major regional centres as focal points
- Region-specific policies and strategies
- Local approaches : local leaders
- Major role for regional HE / TAFE / Schools / Community / Work-places /



Role of Universities

- Sustainability and Well-being *depend on* Knowledge and Innovation
- Knowledge and Innovation *generate apply transfer* Universities play a major role
- Universities : (must not be sovereign entities) Connect communities and regions with national and international agendas and experts



Critical Success Factors

- Increase access to post-secondary education (skilled hands and clever heads)
- Build partnerships (within region, nationally, internationally)
- Regions initiate and “own” change
- Capacity to learn is innate in us all
- Use ICT plus “personal” touch



UB : Our Approach (IFOs)

- *In* the region
- *For* the region
- *Of* the region



Values of University of Ballarat

- Effort and Excellence
- Service to One Another
- Service to Our Communities
- Promotion of Diversity
- Purposeful Change
- Learning Throughout Life



University of Ballarat : Regional Impact

- Historical : lower regional participation rates; higher indicators of disadvantage (for decades)
- Most (80%) Higher Education students are regional; 70% from our region
- Retention and progression rates, employment outcomes, and commencing salaries at Australian average
- Large organisation in region (\$110 M)
- Multipliers (budget, staff, capital development, cultural development, ICT)



Best Approach ?

- Mutuality / Reciprocity
- Collaboration with local leadership
- Courses relevant locally, nationally, internationally
- Regionally useful research and consultancy
- Technology transfer
- Enterprise-based skills-training
- Responsive and relevant, responsible and rigorous, robust and reliable, regional and rural, and reflective



Technology Transfer : New Economy

- All courses use IT (not just IT courses)
- Technology Park - IT focal point for the region
- University, region and global knowledge economy
- Connectivity – University, through ICT, connects people, groups, region with global knowledge economy



Technology Transfer (at University of Ballarat)

- IT business incubation : Greenhill Enterprise Centre; Global Innovation Centre
- Regional Connectivity (25 Community Enterprise Centres)
- IBM Global Services : IBM Regional Software Solution Centre
- State Revenue Office
- Regional Ambulance Victoria



Engagement : (Partnerships / Collaboration)

- Partnerships with various industries, agencies, other universities, other providers
- Regional focus but global presence
- Knowledge and capacity of staff enriched by partnerships



Social / Cultural Fabric : Enrichment by University

- Social / political dialogue
- The Arts
- Named lectures, Debates, Life of Mind
- Enriched cultural life of region
- Timely application of knowledge
- “Internationalisation”



Research and Innovation

- Applied research
- Regionally relevant and useful (IFO)
- Internationally generalisable



Conclusion

- Commitment to regional engagement
- Explicit strategic priorities
- Movement beyond isolated project-specific initiatives
- University as “broker”



University of Ballarat

- With others, striving to build the **sustainability** and **well-being** of the region through **engagement**.



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