



Sustainable Regions Applied Research Network

The Australian Government, through the Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR), has recently announced funding for a new project that will be known as the Sustainable Regions Applied Research Network (SRARN).

SRARN will enable knowledge exchange among researchers working to create sustainable regional development outcomes in rural regions of Australia, Chile and Argentina.

The aim of sustainable regional development is to enhance the prosperity and sustainability of local communities in regions, by creating mutually reinforcing social, business and environmental benefits. This project will work with groups and networks of regional researchers in Australia and the Southern Cone to identify relevant topics such as:

- Community-based energy development;
- Digital enterprise development;
- Regional social entrepreneurship; and
- Other topics with potential to generate significant impact in regions.

SRARN will increase cross-national understanding of common challenges and opportunities for sustainable regional development. It aims to stimulate knowledge partnering across country contexts to generate a next generation of innovative solutions.

The leader of the project in Australia is Associate Professor Robyn Eversole (pictured right), who is the Director of the Institute for Regional Development at the University of Tasmania and the current President of the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association International. She is the author of the well-received book *Knowledge Partnering for Community Development* (London: Routledge, 2015).

