Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

R1. The University strengthen its planning and cohesion around the alignment of engagement strategy and practice with regional priorities.

R2. Alumni strategy enables a longitudinal understanding of the impact that service learning has on careers and alumni roles within their communities.

R3. UWS adopt ‘a University for the region’ as the overarching theme for its regional engagement strategy, focus and activity, becoming the ‘go to place’ for information on Greater Western Sydney, and brokering a forum with the University at its heart.

R4. In its engagement as ‘a University for the region’, UWS should see the potential of Greater Western Sydney as a ‘natural laboratory’ in which to develop expertise in meeting the challenges of peri-urban settings within large cities.

R5. In adopting ‘a University for the region’ as the overarching theme for regional engagement, the University should develop a clearer understanding of its role in supporting industries in which the region has a comparative advantage through scientific innovation. Innovation and productivity in these sectors will likely generate the greatest economic multipliers for the economy of Greater Western Sydney.

R6. Action should be taken to align external media strategy in the context of promoting UWS as ‘a University for the region’.

R7. The University should engage in an institutional dialogue about improving the planning and focus of engagement in a way that does not reduce the ability of staff to engage in projects of importance.

R8. As a matter of priority UWS should institute clear and seamless arrangements for intending engagement partners to make contact with the University and for effective management of their proposals.

R9. In a stronger regional leadership of engagement context, UWS should review its current arrangements for Provosts as the face of campus interaction with local communities.

R10. The overall management of key engagement partnerships be undertaken through senior contacts at the University Executive or Dean of School level.

R11. The University develop and implement processes for ensuring the sustainability of its engagement activities.
R12. More concerted attention be given to developing the concepts and frameworks for engaged teaching within UWS.

R13. The University develop and implement processes to ensure that engagement permeates programs for Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students. This could potentially include opportunities for exchange with other Talloires Network members globally¹.

R14. The University develop and implement a life-long learning strategy.

R15. The University take a more strategic approach to alumni in the context of enabling regional and community engagement.