

21 July 2016

Mr Ashley Albury  
General Manager, Western  
Department of Planning and Environment  
PO Box 58  
DUBBO NSW 2830

Dear Mr Albury

**RE: SUBMISSION TO NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REGIONAL PLANS**

On behalf of Charles Sturt University I am pleased to provide our response to the Department's call for submissions relating to the future of our regions across New South Wales.

As Australia's largest regional university, with campuses and smaller sites across NSW and Victoria, CSU believes regional capitals play a vital role in the national economy, and stand as important communities to the continued growth and evolution of our nation.

Centrally, CSU is strongly of the position that regional capitals require an integrated policy approach that accounts for the disparate portfolios under which issues may fall.

Our response focusses heavily on the implications of higher education and research across our regions.

This ranges from the important role of higher education in providing the skilled, educated workforce needed for continued economic growth and industry development in rural and regional areas, to addressing ever present social and infrastructure issues created by an ageing population and changing demographics.

We would be delighted to provide any additional information to help inform this important work that is being undertaken by the Department. If either the university or myself may offer any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office on email: [vc@csu.edu.au](mailto:vc@csu.edu.au) or telephone: 02 6338 4209.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Andrew Vann**  
Vice-Chancellor