

It is my great pleasure to invite you to Charles Sturt University in Bathurst for the 2015 **SEGRA** conference.

Charles Sturt University (CSU) is the largest regionally based University in Australia, with campuses located in Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst, Canberra, Dubbo, Goulburn, Orange, Port Macquarie and Wagga Wagga, as well as Regional Study Centres in Griffith and Wangaratta. More than 75% of CSU's on-campus rural students move back into employment in rural and regional areas after graduation, while around 40% of CSU's online students are from regional, rural and remote locations.

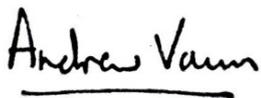
CSU is a university of the land and people of our regions. We are a university whose courses, graduates and research help regional communities to thrive and prosper economically, socially and environmentally. We are a university that aims to improve educational outcomes and lives for Indigenous, regional, rural and remote Australians. True to the character of regional Australia we have gumption, we have soul and we collaborate with others. We develop holistic, far-sighted people who help their communities grow and flourish.

It is therefore very appropriate for CSU to host **SEGRA**, Australia's premier conference on regional issues, which assists regional, rural and remote Australia to source and identify the techniques, skills and issues they need to address to achieve successful economic growth and development.

With a theme of "Leading and Growing Sustainable Regions", the 2015 **SEGRA** conference will include such action agendas as environment, productive landscapes, attracting investment, emerging industries, human capital, export and trade - and the policy settings needed to ensure regional Australia's continuing role in the national agenda. I know you will embrace this opportunity to meet with others who share a commitment to the advancement and sustainability of regional Australia by participating in **SEGRA**.

I also look forward to welcoming you to the vibrant city of Bathurst where I have made my home. Home first to the Wiradjuri people, Bathurst is Australia's oldest inland European settlement. Comprising of a diverse economic base, the town is surrounded by historic villages and agricultural land, and proudly boasts the internationally recognised Mount Panorama race track.

Acknowledging the culture and insight of Indigenous Australians, CSU's ethos is clearly described by the Wiradjuri phrase: *'yindyamarra winhanga-nha'* (*'the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in'*). I hope you can join me at **SEGRA** to contribute to the discussion about leading and growing sustainable regions, that we may all live well in a world worth living in.



Professor Andrew Vann
Vice-Chancellor
Charles Sturt University