**Letter of Support – Country University Centre, Southern Riverina**

I am a high school student in Deniliquin, and I want to register my support for a Country University Centre in the Southern Riverina, for students living in Deniliquin, Hay, Jerilderie, Moama and Echuca.

As I look at my options to continue onto further education – my choices are currently limited. I can leave the area and study in a major city which is very expensive and beyond my means, or alone in my room using online education services. These barriers have prevented many of my fellow students from pursuing further education, or leaving the area to attend University.

The opportunity to study in the area where I’ve grown up with family and friends to support me – is a very attractive option. The southern Riverina is growing, and I would like the opportunity to pursue a career here after study. The healthcare sector, renewable energy, agri-businesses, water management and fisheries and many other business sectors are growing in this area and I would like to stay in my community and find a local job.

The Country University Centre will provide me with the support and mentoring I need to enrol in a University course and a quiet, safe place to study at times that suit me with high speed internet and computing services.

I know that the rate of higher education take-up in areas like the Southern Riverina is approximately 50% less than in metropolitan areas. For me and my student cohort, a Country University Centre will provide greater choice for us to continue with further education and ultimately stay and help this region to grow and thrive.

Yours sincerely

**Name** XXXXX

**School** XXXXXX

**Date** XXXXXX

Please email this letter to: council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au with attention Phil Stone, Chief Executive Officer.