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**Abstract**

This case study documents the establishment of a rural University formed from previous CAEs. Central to the success of this University was an audacious, but strategically sound, interpretation of the Act which created Charles Sturt University. This interpretation moved away from a federated model and led to the implementation of a decentralised integration model. Compared to a federal model the new model mitigated against the individual campuses and their principals wielding power in ways that would threaten the stability of the new institution. Thus despite the geographically challenging nature of the amalgamation, Charles Sturt University has survived and thrived. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Hatton, Elizabeth J., E-mail: e.hatton@ecu.edu.au