



Welcome to Albury City

[Councillor Amanda Duncan-Strelec](#), Mayor of Albury

MC: Ladies and gentlemen, it's now my enormous pleasure to welcome to the podium the mayor of Albury, Councillor Amanda Duncan-Strelec, born and raised in Albury-Wodonga, but even best, students, she's come back here to raise a family. Put your hands together for the mayor of Albury.

AMANDA DUNCAN-STRELEC: Thank you, Julie. Thank you very much. And thank you for that great welcome. I haven't had a welcome like that for a long time. You should come back again.

I'd like to acknowledge the New South Wales Governor, Professor Marie Bashir, and Sir Nicholas Shehadie. Minister Abbott has not yet arrived and our local member, Sussan, has not yet arrived that I can see. I'd also like to welcome my colleague, Mayor Denise Osborne, from Greater Hume Shire, my other colleague, my deputy mayor, Councillor Kevin Porter, other distinguished guests, and I know the hall is full of them, and ladies and gentlemen, and particularly the students. Where are you again?

Look, it's my great pleasure and honour to welcome you all to this beautiful city of ours, the city of Albury. We're delighted that you've chosen Albury as the venue to hold your 9th National Rural Health Conference. I note we're in good company with previous conferences being held at Alice Springs, Hobart, Canberra, Adelaide and Perth, but they won't hold a candle to Albury, I can guarantee you.

I know you're going to have a very busy time over the next few days but I want to urge you to take some time to get around and enjoy our city. Take some time to walk through our beautiful botanic gardens; we've won awards for our gardens, they really are superb. Down the end of Dean Street, and it's not such a long walk to then go to our wonderful Noreuil Park and have a look at our Cumberoona, our own paddle-steamer, and take a beautiful peaceful walk along our river. That's how close you are. It's only about four blocks away.

If you get a chance, take a break for some retail therapy. Our local businesses will certainly appreciate it and so will I because while you spend they're happy with the council. Don't leave here without taking in some of the ambience of Dean Street, and we also have another major retail centre to the north of our city in Lavington, but Dean Street has some wonderful al fresco dining. And don't miss out on our clubs, and there's just so much night life here. We really are a smaller version of Melbourne and Sydney – well, I believe we are anyway, even if my two sons did leave Albury to go to Melbourne to university and don't ring their mother often enough, and don't seem to want to come home very much because they're having so much fun.

I'll conclude by wishing you all the very best outcomes from your conference. Rural health is a topic very dear to Albury City Council, and this year we actually decided to award two scholarships to local students, one a first year student through the University of New South Wales, and one a fourth year student, a local student, who will come to the rural medical school here. So, we actually put our money where our mouth is, we don't just welcome you, we show by example by awarding scholarships.

Thank you very much for coming to our beautiful city.