



February was a busy and productive month for our region, marked by significant progress in health infrastructure, meaningful community milestones and continued advocacy for the future of the Border.

From welcoming Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, to honouring 75 years of National Service, to finalising detailed designs for the Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital redevelopment, strong momentum has been maintained across several key priorities.

That momentum carries into March, with sustained advocacy and practical collaboration continuing to deliver outcomes for our growing border community.



Governor's Visit — Showcasing Our Region

In February, it was a privilege to welcome Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, to the Albury border region.

Her visit highlighted the remarkable calibre of our local young people. From the 37 Army Cadet Unit and 412 Squadron Air Force Cadets parading for National Servicemen's Day, to St John Ambulance cadets demonstrating their skills and leadership; through to meeting the talented performers of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus and



75 Years of National Service

February marked the 75th anniversary of the first intake of National Servicemen.

National Servicemen's Day honours the 287,000 young men drafted into compulsory military service between 1951 and 1972 — including 212 who gave their lives for our nation.

This year's ceremony was also the final service conducted by our Murray Border Nashos. The Governor's presence added further significance, reinforcing the

young entrepreneurs connected through Albury Business Connect, the next generation showcased the innovation and leadership thriving across our community.

importance of remembrance and honouring service.

It was especially moving to see local Air Force, Army and Navy Cadets standing proudly, carrying forward that same spirit of service across generations.

Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital — Detailed Design Complete





In February, the detailed designs for the Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital redevelopment were finalised, providing the clearest picture yet of what the new seven-storey Clinical Services Building will deliver.

The designs reflect a hospital that would not be out of place in Sydney or Melbourne, a modern, high-capacity regional facility built to deliver positive health outcomes for our border community.

This stage represents a **\$558 million commitment** already secured from the NSW, Victorian and Commonwealth Governments and will effectively **double the footprint of the Albury campus**.

Key features include:

- 110 additional overnight beds across new medical and surgical inpatient units, including expanded mental health services
- Expanded emergency care capacity
- Advanced digital operating theatres, including a hybrid theatre for complex procedures
- A new state-of-the-art Intensive Care Unit
- A new cardiac catheterisation laboratory and procedure room
- Enhanced maternity and birthing suites and a Special Care Nursery
- A new 32-bed Mental Health Unit, replacing and expanding Nolan House services
- New allied health and outpatient facilities
- A new main entry with landscaped outdoor areas and expanded visitor spaces
- Over 300 additional car parking spaces, bringing total campus capacity to approximately 1,000 spaces

Bringing two state governments and two health departments together to deliver this investment has required sustained effort. The progress achieved to date is significant and maintaining this momentum remains critical.

I have consistently stated that further investment from both state governments and the

Commonwealth will ultimately be required to fully meet the long-term health needs of Albury-Wodonga. While the increase in car parking is welcome, the multi-storey car park and helipad, both part of the original commitment, remain important elements that will require funding as future stages progress.

In February, I met with senior NSW Health leadership to reinforce the importance of continued investment and service planning for the Albury campus. Following these discussions, the NSW Health Secretary committed to visiting Albury to engage directly with local stakeholders.

The most accurate and up-to-date information is available at:

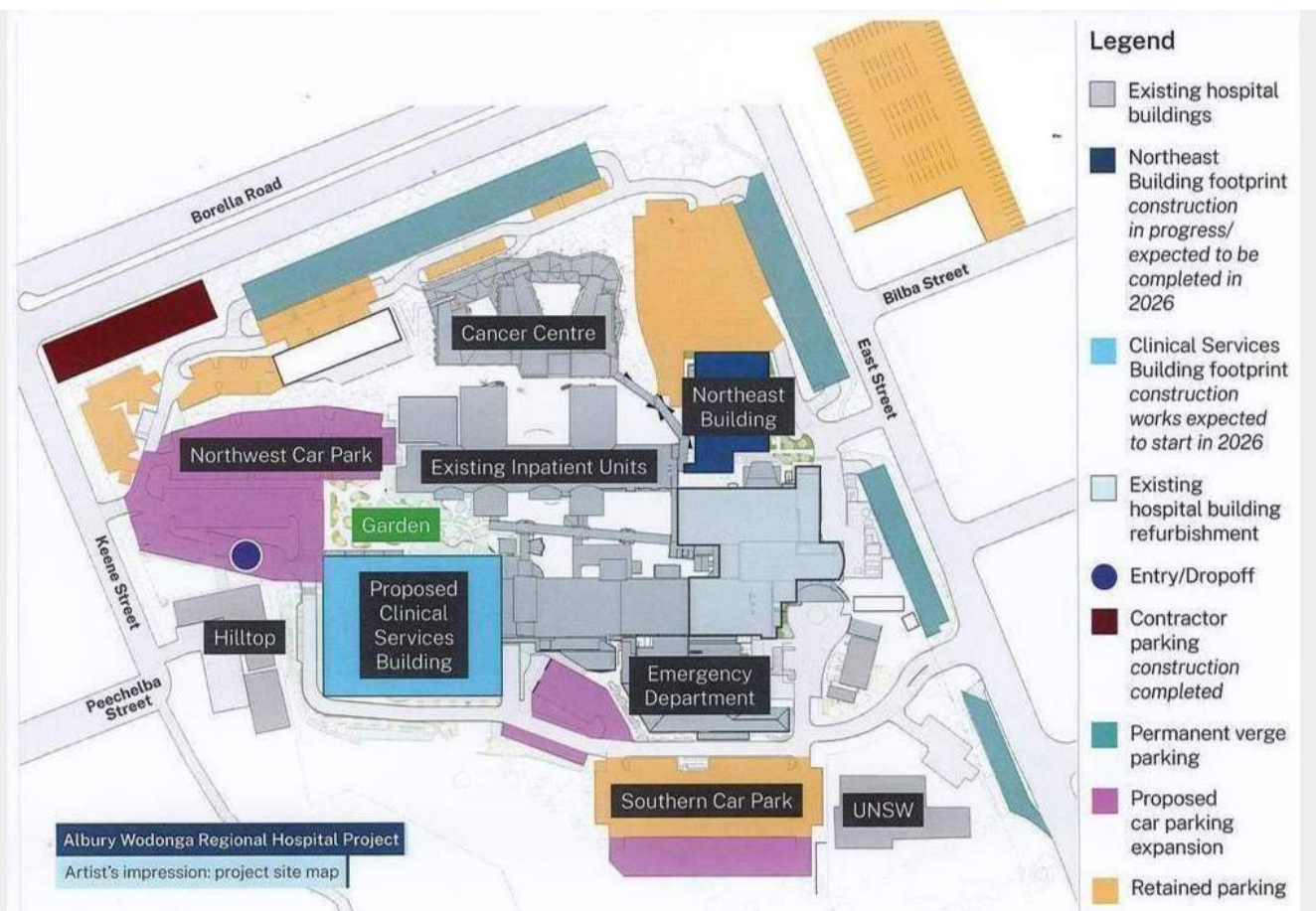
[► Read more](#)



Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital Project

Artist's impression: lobby space





Strengthening Cardiac Services — Building on Proven Advocacy.

In February, I moved a Notice of Motion in Parliament calling on the NSW Government to work with the Victorian Government to support the staged expansion of cardiac catheterisation services at Albury Wodonga Health.



This approach builds on the constructive, sustained advocacy undertaken last year to strengthen renal dialysis services across the border region.

That advocacy contributed to securing **\$4.45 million in Victorian Government funding** through the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund to significantly expand dialysis capacity. The investment will:

- Expand the Wodonga Campus Renal Dialysis Unit from nine to fifteen care points
- Introduce two additional dialysis care points at the Albury Campus
- Expand the Home Dialysis Service from one to three care points
- Effectively double overall dialysis capacity once complete

These improvements will allow more patients to receive life-sustaining treatment closer to home and reduce the need to travel outside the region.

Cardiac services now require a similar staged and cooperative approach.

Access to timely cardiac care is critical in regional communities. Strengthening cardiac catheter services locally means more patients can receive urgent and specialist care within our own region, supported by experienced clinical teams.

The inclusion of a new cardiac catheterisation laboratory in the hospital redevelopment is an important step forward. However, continued expansion and operational investment will be necessary to meet long-term demand and reduce transfers to metropolitan hospitals.

The experience with renal dialysis demonstrates what can be achieved when sustained advocacy,

cross-border cooperation and targeted investment come together. The same focus will continue to guide efforts to strengthen cardiac services for the Albury-Wodonga community.

[▶ Read more](#)



Celebrating Local Women in Business

February also saw the Business Women Albury Wodonga Grant Pitch Night, recognising the strength of women-led enterprise across our region.

Congratulations to the finalists:

- Border Leadership Pty Ltd
- Recovery Solutions Counselling
- Reflecting Health
- Phoenix Wings Wellness
- ESP Support Services

Each finalist delivered an impressive pitch, competing for \$5,000 in grant funding to grow their ventures.

Hosted at Regent Cinemas Albury Wodonga, the event showcased the innovation and determination driving local business forward.

Strengthening Regional Medical Training and Research

In February, visits were made to UNSW's Wagga medical campus, the UNSW Health Translation Hub in Randwick, and Charles Sturt University to discuss the future of regional health education and research.

UNSW's rural medical campuses — including Wagga Wagga, Albury, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Griffith, continue to play a vital role in training the next generation of doctors for regional NSW.

At the Health Translation Hub, researchers are tackling chronic disease and improving health systems, demonstrating how medical research strengthens patient outcomes and regional innovation.

Charles Sturt University remains a cornerstone of regional education. As Australia's largest regional university, CSU trains more regional nurses than any other institution and educates more than ten per cent of the nation's vets.

Strong regional universities underpin stronger regional communities, and advocacy will continue to ensure policy settings recognise and support their unique role.





Food & Hospitality Industry Event — Luke Mangan Visiting Albury

There is exciting news for the Border hospitality sector.

On Monday 16 March 2026, renowned chef Luke Mangan OAM will visit Albury for a special Food & Hospitality Industry networking event, joined by leading hospitality voices from Sydney including Mark Best, Lauren Eldridge, Kate Tomasella and Darren O'Rourke.

The evening will bring together industry professionals, local businesses and community members for networking and panel discussion focused on career pathways in food and hospitality.

It will be of particular interest to:

- Parents with children considering a career in hospitality
- Those already working in the industry
- Anyone keen to enjoy good food and great company while hearing from some of Australia's leading chefs

Luke will also spend time on Tuesday engaging with hospitality students from across the border region, reinforcing the importance of investing in the next generation of talent and strengthening local career pathways.

 Monday 16 March 2026

 6:00pm–7:30pm

 Din Dins, [450 Townsend Street, Albury](#)

 Tickets: www.trybooking.com/DJFRJ



Investing in the Next Generation — School Leaders Program

Leadership is not about position — it is about values.

That principle underpins the School Leaders Program, proudly led by Dr Jess Murphy and Marcus Millgate and now widely supported by local schools across our region.

Through practical workshops and tools such as *Clarity 4D*, students gain deeper self-awareness and develop the confidence to lead with integrity and purpose.

Each year, the program attracts between 50 and 60 students, a strong reflection of the value families and schools place on nurturing thoughtful, capable young leaders.

Strengthening grassroots leadership across our electorate remains a priority. When we invest in young people, we invest in the long-term strength and character of our community.

How my office can help you

My team and I are committed to assisting local residents with state government services and agencies. If you're experiencing difficulties, need guidance, or require support during disaster recovery, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We also offer Justice of the Peace services at the electorate office for document witnessing and statutory declarations.

Our office is here to support residents across our community.

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