



Media Release

26 March 2015

Invest to Connect the Outer Growth Suburbs

“How many people does it take to change the approach to the outer growth suburbs ?” asks Mayor Glenn Docherty, Chair of the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA). “There are over 4m people living in such areas, with growth running at double the national rate. Everyone agrees that they are not well connected,” he says, “but getting positive change has lagged despite this consensus.”

“Offerings which aim to improve the quality of life and economic outcomes for our communities are therefore to be welcomed. Our tests are whether they are fair, positive and practical. The Bus Industry Confederation’s, *Moving People: Connecting Neighbourhoods* by Professor John Stanley makes a worthy contribution which deserves serious consideration,” said Mayor Docherty.

In its discussion of how to implement 20 minute connected neighbourhoods it does not only focus on inner cities but says that the outer suburbs require attention. Here is where public transport should be available at an early stage in estate development. Here is where there should be a focus on the urban form to support it. Here is where accessible jobs are also an important part of the mix. The report cites a number of potential gains from connected 20 minute neighbourhoods including reduced congestion and better health.

“Managing population growth is a national issue and if we do it well there are national gains to be had. Our research demonstrates that investment in needed infrastructure in the outer growth suburbs will pay off in ongoing jobs created, taxes generated and national GDP permanently boosted,” says Mayor Docherty. “The opportunities are available in our areas to make this happen. What we need is for the Federal Government to take a lead role by investing, as well as securing state government support. With a growing population we need to find ways to be better connected; and there is no time to waste,” he concluded.

ENDS####

Media Contact:

Ruth Spielman Executive Officer 0407 324 178 ruth.spielman@ngaa.org.au
NGAA on Twitter @NGAA2012

KEY FACTS

- Number of residents in NGAA areas (June 2013) 3.3 million
- NGAA areas grew at double the national rate 2006-11 3.2 per cent
- Forecast population in 2021 4.1 million
- NGAA areas absorbed one third, or twice their share, of Australia’s growth between 2006 -11
- Another 1m jobs are needed in NGAA areas by 2026 just to maintain the status quo.