



Media Release

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LARGEST GROWTH IN THE COUNTRY IS IN THE OUTER SUBURBS

The largest population growth in the country is in the outer suburbs according to ABS' newly released population estimates. South Morang, Pt Cook, Baldivis, Craigieburn and Tarneit are those that have grown the most. They make up a portion of the 4+ million people living on the outskirts of our cities in areas that are growing at double the national rate.

"Most Australians would think that there would be a focus on infrastructure investment to accompany the growth, but that has not occurred," said Mayor Glenn Docherty, Chair of the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA).

"So our communities and our businesses continue to be constrained by traffic congestion and lack of local jobs and services close to home," he said. "This is limiting our communities' opportunities and it is wasting the potential that we offer."

"Our land affordability, our youthful population profile and our skills gained from a strong manufacturing base all provide fantastic opportunities for us to be future oriented communities and businesses."

"Our research shows that investment in our areas would create jobs, see increased tax revenue and result in a permanent boost to national GDP. We need assistance from Commonwealth and State Governments for the roads, the public transport, the health and the education facilities that will connect residents to jobs and services and businesses to their markets."

"Each time figures like those from the ABS come out it highlights what is the day to day reality for our areas of continued growth without sufficient infrastructure. This not only affects outer growth suburbs, it impacts on the way our cities work and on the nation's productivity. The opportunities to get much better outcomes exist in our areas. We seek the investment that will help to realise this potential," said Mayor Docherty.

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KEY FACTS

- NGAA areas grew at double the national rate 2006-11 3.2 per cent
- 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.