



# Media Release

---

8 May 2015

## Melton's BACE to explore new methods for residential design and construction

"Today's launch of the Western Business Accelerator and Centre for Excellence (BACE) showcases the innovation that is happening in the growing outer suburbs," said Mayor Glenn Docherty, Chair of the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA).

The rapid rate at which Melbourne's west is expanding provides an opportunity to explore new methods for residential design and construction. Set to provide training, small business support and research into jobs of the future, this exemplar facility demonstrates what is possible in the growing outer suburbs.

"Our areas are not short on good ideas and a great foundation to build on. This project is an outstanding example of what can be achieved with assistance from Government through initiatives like the Suburban Jobs Program," said Mayor Docherty.

The Australian Government has contributed \$14.6m from its Suburban Jobs Program to the \$21m project, Consortium partners \$3.8m and Melton City Council \$2.7m in cash, land and in-kind. Partners include Lend Lease, the Burbank Group, Kangan Institute, Federation University and Victoria University.

Located adjacent to the Toolern Metropolitan Activity Centre, the facility will help 'kick start' the development of other elements within that precinct. It includes:

- Accelerator office and work spaces
- A Centre for Excellence in environmentally sustainable building and construction
- Training and training spaces to address skill shortages
- Research necessary for innovation and business growth
- Space for not for profit community services and social enterprises

"Melton City Council and their partners are to be congratulated for brokering this forward looking project," said Mayor Docherty. "The *Suburban Jobs Program* is an incredibly important initiative, with Western BACE being one of three funded projects around Australia.

"Our research shows that 1 million additional jobs will be needed in the growing outer suburbs of Australia by 2026 just to maintain the status quo. The *Suburban Jobs Program* recognises the opportunities in our areas for a win win solution. We have made a fantastic start. We now urge the Government to continue the Program beyond the initial three projects," concluded Mayor Docherty.

#Ends

Media Contact:

Ruth Spielman      Executive Officer      0407 324 178    [ruth.spielman@ngaa.org.au](mailto:ruth.spielman@ngaa.org.au)  
NGAA on Twitter      @NGAAEO



# Media Release

---

## KEY FACTS

- Number of residents in NGAA areas (June 2013) 3.4 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.