



Media Release

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Federal Budget Cuts Add to Population Growth Pressures

"Families and young people in outer suburban growth areas will be hard hit by the 2014-15 Federal Budget," says Mayor Paul Pisasale, Chair of the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA).

"The extra burdens on families and young people will create more demand for Council assistance. But already stretched Councils will have less capacity to respond as their funding reduces."

"Our rapidly expanding communities struggle now through lack of infrastructure, education and employment options and poor transport. This budget will place increased pressure on them through higher petrol prices and reduced benefits. The cost of living will increase without improving its quality unless there is action to bring jobs closer to home and provide a range of transport options."

"Our young people will be amongst the hardest hit. Their opportunities to study, to work and get around are already constrained. How will they make ends meet if they can't access study or work? Our young people are this nation's future; we should be equipping them with the means to unlock their potential, not putting hurdles in their path."

"Cuts to health, education and industry programs are also a major concern. Cutting programs which will ultimately save money and create prosperity, such as tackling obesity or supporting business innovation is in no-one's best interests."

"NGAA supports a focus on infrastructure but says more investment is needed in the areas taking the lion's share of population growth. We welcome the Infrastructure Growth Package. The funding for W. Sydney in particular, demonstrates that the Government recognises the need for infrastructure to ease population growth pressures."

"This approach now needs to be extended to other outer growth areas which are experiencing similar pressures and which have the potential for economic growth. Our research shows that it would pay off through job creation, increased tax revenues and a permanent boost to GDP¹."

"It is good to see the Government honouring commitments to a number of projects which will benefit outer growth areas and to the National Stronger Regions Fund. But a more comprehensive and deliberate response to population growth is still required if it is to boost and not drain Government coffers. In addition to roads, growth areas need public transport and a range of community facilities. Better physical and social connections will be good for people and good for the economy."

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- NGAA covers 25 growth municipalities on the outskirts of capital cities nationally
- Number of residents in NGAA member areas 3.5 million²
- Proportion of Australia's growth 2006-2011 27.5%
- Rate of growth compared to Australia Double³
- Forecast population in NGAA member areas by 2021 4.4 million⁴

¹ SGS Economics and Planning, *Cost Benefit Analysis of Investment in Growth Areas, 2009*.

² If all eligible outer metro growth areas are included, there are 4.4 million residents.

³ Hugo G & Harris K, University of Adelaide, *Population Dynamics in Outer Suburbs 2006-2011* (2013)

⁴ If all eligible outer metro growth areas are included, the projected population by 2021 is 5.5m.