Media Release

NGAA welcomes Labor's promised investment boost

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) has welcomed the Federal Opposition's $170 million commitment for infrastructure in the Western Australian Federal seat of Canning should they win the next election. Opposition Leader Bill Shorten pledged the funding in the lead up to the Canning by-election to be held on 19 September.

The Labor commitment includes $145 million for the duplication of Armadale Road and construction of North Lake Road bridge and a freeway interchange. These are priority projects for Armadale and Cockburn councils who are actively lobbying for funding from both major parties. Armadale and Cockburn are members of the NGAA, which represents the interests of Australia's growing outer suburbs that are home to over four million Australians.

Mayor Tracey Roberts, NGAA state spokesperson for WA and Mayor of Wanneroo, said the commitment by Federal Labor was a great recognition of the infrastructure needs of outer suburban growth areas.

"The NGAA welcomes this commitment by Labor and I call on the Federal Coalition to also commit so that regardless of the outcome of the Canning by-election, these critical projects get delivered. These projects will lead to increased productivity, economic benefits and a better quality of life for local residents who need improved access to jobs and services and less congestion on the roads."

Mayor Glenn Docherty, NGAA national spokesperson and Mayor of the City of Playford in South Australia said that a dedicated national infrastructure fund needs to be established because communities in outer growth areas lack basic access to jobs and services and have poor road and public transport options. Businesses also struggle with poor transport connectivity.

"The two projects in Canning are exactly the types of projects a dedicated outer growth area fund would support. And there are many more projects in outer growth areas around the nation.

"Across the country, NGAA areas, which include Armadale and Cockburn, are growing at double the national rate. Residents and businesses in outer growth areas are confronted with the daily grind of congested roads, inadequate and overcrowded public transport and hard to access services such as health services – all due to a significant lack of investment by successive governments.

"A dedicated national outer growth area infrastructure fund is needed to provide Australia's fastest growing communities with certainty on the timely delivery of the infrastructure and services they deserve – and that inner city areas take for granted."

Outer growth areas are a major contributor to the national economy, but don't get their fair share of infrastructure funding. The NGAA wants a fair share for the four million Australians who call an outer growth area home. For business, investment in infrastructure can keep costs down, creating investment and employment opportunities.

Media Contact:

Ruth Spielman Executive Officer 0407 324 178 ruth.spielman@ngaa.org.au

NGAA on Twitter @NGAAEO