



Media Release

Minister for Cities and Built Environment a progressive move

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) has welcomed the appointment of a Minister for Cities and the Built Environment by new Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

The NGAA represents Australia's fast growing outer suburbs that are home to more than four million people. Located on the outskirts of capital cities, the 23 NGAA member council areas are growing at double the national rate but are being held back by lack of infrastructure investment.

Some 2000 people are moving into NGAA areas every week. By 2026 they will be home to another 1.3 million people – the equivalent of 3.6 Canberras. But successive governments have failed to fund and build the infrastructure growth areas need and deserve.

“With rapid population growth in the outer suburbs, we commend the Prime Minister on the appointment of a Minister for Cities and the Built Environment,” said NGAA Chair and Mayor of the City of Playford, Glenn Docherty. “Recognising that creating better cities requires involvement by all levels of government aligns strongly with NGAA objectives.

“This is the opportunity to deliver a comprehensive and dedicated response to the current and growing infrastructure lag that is holding growth areas back. Investing in growth areas outweighs the costs, creates jobs, increases tax revenues and permanently boosts GDP. It will also lead to a reduced cost of living, easier commuting, better access to essential services and a better quality of life.

“Infrastructure is important to our member communities. This was demonstrated in the recent Canning by-election where communities in Armadale and Cockburn ran the *Community Connect South* campaign which resulted in bi-partisan commitments to key infrastructure projects.

“There are many more projects in NGAA areas that communities feel strongly about, particularly roads, public transport and health facilities. That is why there is a need for a dedicated long term, stable funding mechanism to unlock the potential of these areas.”

“We look forward to working with the newly appointed Minister for Cities and the Built Environment, the Hon Jamie Briggs, to achieve better outcomes for growth areas and more liveable and productive cities.”

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