



Media Release

Victorian Interface Growth Fund a national benchmark

The National Growth Areas Alliance has called the Victorian Government's Interface Growth Fund a national benchmark, with the initiative today injecting \$40 million into 26 community projects in Melbourne's fastest growing outer suburbs.

The Interface Growth Fund was established by the Victorian Government to create a dedicated fund to help outer-suburban communities build local infrastructure projects in response to unprecedented population growth.

Mayor Glenn Docherty, Chair of the NGAA and Mayor of the City of Playford, said the Victorian Government is setting a benchmark in recognising that dedicated investment is needed to effectively manage the growth of new communities.

"Today the Victorian Government sent a powerful and extremely positive message that Australia's fast growing outer suburbs need a dedicated funding mechanism to provide the infrastructure that is required to accommodate massive population growth.

"Australia's fast growing outer suburbs are growing at double the national rate. Residents in these areas often lack the roads, public transport and health facilities available closer to city centres. This has an impact on household budgets and health and wellbeing.

"The Victorian Government has made a good start in recognising that the only way to deliver improved outcomes is to have a dedicated funding mechanism to deliver critical community infrastructure.

"The same situation plays out in every outer growth area around the nation. Whilst the Victorian Interface Growth Fund is currently relatively small and focused on community infrastructure, it provides a model of what can be done elsewhere.

"It is encouraging that the current Federal Government has acknowledged it has a role in cities and appointed a Minister for Cities and the Built Environment. There now needs to be a federal focus on population growth hotspots in the outer suburbs and a dedicated infrastructure funding mechanism to support road, public transport and health facilities the growing outer suburbs desperately need and deserve."

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) represents the interests of Australia's fast growing outer suburbs. Located on the outskirts of capital cities, some 2000 people are moving into such areas each week. By 2026, these areas will be home to another 1.3 million people - the equivalent of 3.6 Canberras.

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