



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Outer Suburbs need a budget boost**

Five million people living in Australia's fast-growing outer suburbs are hoping tomorrow's federal budget will answer their calls for more and better infrastructure funding.

Ruth Spielman, Executive Officer of the National Growth Areas Alliance, says the budget must recognise the needs of communities in fast-growing areas.

"Communities and businesses in Australia's fast-growing outer suburbs – such as Officer in Melbourne's south-east, Campbelltown in Sydney's south-west, Munno Para in Adelaide's north and Wanneroo in Perth's north are desperate for Government investment in public transport, better road networks and health facilities.

"Cost of living for the five million residents of Australia's growing outer suburbs is a key concern, made worse by long nightmare commutes to work and study. Our fast-growing outer suburbs are providing affordable housing for Australia's growing population. But they are not getting the investment needed to allow both residents and businesses to flourish. They need a dedicated response so the potential benefits of jobs and growth can be realised.

"We hope that the decision to remove capital expenditure from operating expenditure will lead to more borrowing to fund vital infrastructure including on the outskirts of our cities. This is a sensible move by the Government, and provides an opportunity to address the infrastructure investment backlog in growth areas," she said.

The National Growth Areas Alliance advocates for a stronger government focus on the needs of fast-growing outer suburbs, currently home to 5 million people. The Alliance's 21 member councils are calling for dedicated funding for critical infrastructure and services for outer growth areas, and for all levels of government to commit to assisting outer suburbs reach their full potential.

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