



MEDIA RELEASE

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Adelaide's fast growing outer suburbs ready for transformation

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA), representing 21 councils and nearly 5 million people living in Australia's fast growing outer suburbs, says their areas are ready for transformation.

Two new research reports commissioned by NGAA tell the story of changing populations and economies which provide many opportunities for development. Chair of the Alliance, Mayor Glenn Docherty of the City of Playford, will release the two research reports on Friday 16 March with fellow NGAA Member Mount Barker District Council.

"The 2016 census has given us the data to back up what we in growth Councils already know – the fast growing outer suburbs are not what many people think they are. In fact, growth areas right across the country are changing," he said.

"No longer the bastion of the first home buyer, our communities are made up of people from all age groups, with the number of 'empty nesters' and retirees growing rapidly.

"Our community members come from many different cultures and they need and want a wide variety of facilities and services. They bring many different skills and qualifications which mean jobs are needed in a wide variety of industries."

Fast growing outer suburbs face a number of challenges such as traffic congestion, inadequate public transport and high cost of living from long commutes to work or study. However data shows new businesses are sprouting up right across Australia's growth areas, and they are increasingly in new knowledge based industries.

"We worked with Prof. Jon Kellett of the University of Adelaide to analyse two projects and assess their potential impact on our communities.

"Both the Gawler Rail Line Electrification and the development of a health and education precinct around the Lyell McEwin hospital have the potential to transform the City of Playford and beyond.

"Faster and more convenient public transport connections, more health services and the creation of new employment hubs – especially in high tech industries – will bring about positive and sustainable change to the everyday lives of the residents of Adelaide's northern growth areas.

"The time is right – and we are ready – for government investment that will transform our growing outer suburbs," said Mayor Docherty.

The State of Australia's Fast Growing Outer Suburbs (undertaken by .id) and *Transformational Infrastructure Projects in Australia's Fast Growing Outer Suburbs*, undertaken by NGAA's Universities Reference Group, including the University of Adelaide, are available at www.ngaa.org.au/research

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