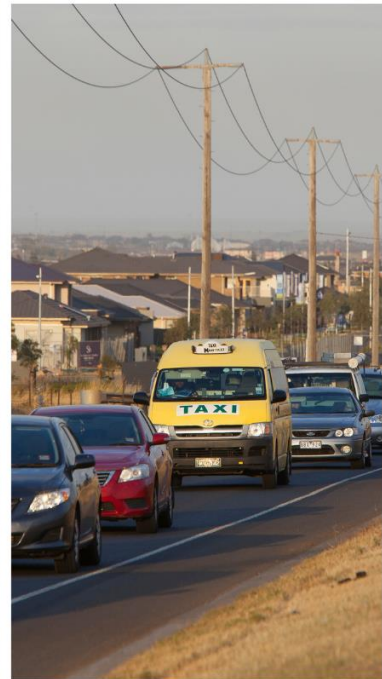




**NATIONAL
Growth Areas
ALLIANCE**

Jobs and Skills Australia Submission



DISCUSSION PAPER REPOSES

Discussion questions on structure and governance:

1. Are there other design considerations that could further strengthen Jobs and Skills Australia's ability to provide advice to government?

The National Growth Areas Alliance commends the commitment to consultation outlined in the tripartite advisory body model, but has two recommendations to strengthen the outcomes JSA could achieve. These relate to avenues for localised and holistic advice to be considered by Advisory body, and for the work of the JSA to feed into boarder government policies, notably the National Urban Policy Framework.

Recommendation 1 – A sub-committee to seek local, holistic perspectives.

Noting that local government is omitted from the definition of tripartite, we recommend a sub-committee that involves representation from local government, in particular from growth areas represented by our Alliance.

The reasoning behind this is to acknowledge and place value on the localised knowledge National Growth Areas Alliance members have about local business and workforce needs, youth engagement, employment for diverse communities, land use planning (in particular geography of urban development and hence population growth).

The fast-growing outer suburbs of Australia's capital cities have a significantly different demographic and economic makeup than both established metropolitan areas and regional areas. Growth areas are home to a higher proportion of people under 18, residents born overseas and people with a vocational education qualification.

Growth areas are home to a workforce of 2.2 million people who have less access geographically to vocational and higher education institutions than inner and middle-suburbs counterparts, but who have significantly higher representation in sectors where skills training is required: construction, manufacturing, transport, postal and warehouse.

The value a growth areas local government perspective would bring is the holistic perspective of community experience, demographic change, connection with current development and future land use. This would allow Jobs and Skills Australia to take forward proposals based on understanding the broader ecosystem they will impact.

Recommendation 2 – A place for Jobs and Skills Australia to inform the National Urban Policy Framework

Along with Jobs and Skills Australia, the National Urban Policy Framework (NUPF) will be one of the Albanese Government's lasting legacies. We recommend a mechanism for JSA's work to inform the NUPF, to avoid silos and to ensure a streamlined and integrated approach to advice on skills and training needs.

We trust that advice will include infrastructure to deliver the training, and connection to industry and economic development, of which a large amount is happening in the greenfield housing, employment and industrial zones on the outskirts of Australia's capital cities – areas represented by the National Growth Areas Alliance which must be a key part of the NUPF.

Discussion questions on Jobs and Skills Australia functions:

2. What principles could be used to guide Jobs and Skills Australia's priorities, and the development of its workplan?

Integrated

The establishment of JSA is a unique and vital opportunity to take a whole-of-government approach, and we strongly recommend consultation within government to ensure jobs and skills policy is integrated across all portfolios. This is in line with National Growth Areas Alliance's ongoing calls for a comprehensive national approach with all levels of government working together to address the uneven distribution of people, jobs, houses and infrastructure around the country.

NGAA members have a shared vision of growing communities that are resilient, liveable, and thriving. This vision is unachievable without national policy leadership to support all stakeholders to reimagine the future of outer suburban development. Policy leadership must be supported by long term funding commitments for urban-standard infrastructure and better federal and state services in the outer suburbs.

Place-based

We recommend that JSA embraces the principle of place-based policy development, to ensure that the vast populations of young people living in Australia's outer suburbs do not continue to be neglected by funders and policy makers.

The rapid growth in the outer suburbs is the perfect opportunity to plan and deliver jobs and skills from the ground up – as people arrive and as land is released for development.

Diversity

We strongly recommend JSA embraces the diversity of our population – particularly migrants and young people. More than a third of all residents in growth areas were born overseas (compared to 22% nationally) and the age structure of the outer suburban population is heavily weighted to children and young people (meaning that there are around 1,000,000 children between 5-17 living in just 29 local government areas on the outer suburbs).

JSA has an opportunity to build a jobs and skills policy and service that genuinely benefits from the contribution of migrant populations and young people, and must embrace new and different models that meet new and different community expectations.

3. How could Jobs and Skills Australia seek broader input into the development and refinement of its workplan?

Local government would be a useful resource in that they are well-connected with local businesses, industries and communities, and have established grassroots engagement activities which could connect with hard-to-reach cohorts of students, businesses (such as SMEs) and people looking to retrain or find work, particularly migrant populations.

The National Growth Areas Alliance would be delighted to facilitate local connections.

4. How could Jobs and Skills Australia engage tripartite partners, experts and other interested parties in its major studies?

The National Growth Areas Alliance has participated in, and facilitated, excellent consultation processes during the development of Infrastructure Australia's 'Australian

Infrastructure Plan' released in 2021, and Infrastructure Victoria's '30 year Infrastructure Plan', released in 2022.

Both processes used a series of workshops on different topics to engage stakeholders and garner relevant information and input. Our Alliance facilitated such workshops with our members, as did many other peak bodies and industry groups.

We would recommend studying that model, as it allowed participants to feel acknowledged and responsible for a serious contribution.

Bronwen Clark
CEO, NGAA
0448 401 257
bronwen.clark@ngaa.org.au