

# MEMBERSHIP PROSPECTUS

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NGAA members with Ministers, MPs and stakeholders



## Welcome to the NGAA

All Australians deserve to live in a safe, sustainable and liveable community – regardless of their postcode.

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) is here to help make that happen.

The NGAA is an alliance of Councils from across Australia's fast-growing outer urban areas. We understand growing communities because we are a part of them.

We know the population of Australia's designated growth areas has doubled in one generation. Towns have become suburbs and suburbs have become cities on the outskirts of our capitals.

The rate of population growth in the outer areas is faster than any government expected, yet, investment under successive governments has not kept pace with community needs and wants.

Today, five million Australians live in fast-growing outer areas and produce 13% of Australia's jobs and 11% of GDP but only receive 13% of infrastructure investment.

Investment in education, transport, health, social and community infrastructure is vital. With one in every five Australian citizens living in a fast-growing city, suburb or town, the right investment in these areas will not only impact local communities, but the nation.

The Federal Government must be part of addressing this unique opportunity and the NGAA is your voice in Canberra.

The NGAA is working to influence Federal infrastructure investment that is commensurate with our Members' actual population growth. Otherwise, we will not only fail in planning for future populations, we will not even catch up with the needs of people already living in growth areas.

Our Member Councils have a shared vision. Together, we advocate and influence government policies, programs and funding for growth areas to enable communities to be more resilient, liveable and thriving.

Together, we are a strong voice for Australia's outer urban growth areas. Join the NGAA today.

**Councillor Matthew Deeth**

**MAYOR OF WOLLONDILLY SHIRE, NSW  
CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL GROWTH AREAS ALLIANCE**



# Our Vision

The NGAA works with, and on behalf of, our Member Councils to achieve our vision for Australian cities where residents have equitable access to housing, jobs, education, health services, cultural activities and the physical and community infrastructure that support these outcomes – no matter where they live.

## Influencing decisions

The NGAA is the Federal Government and Opposition's go-to source for guidance and evidence of the impact of rapid and sustained population growth in the cities, towns and suburbs on the outskirts of Australia's capital cities.

With high level access to Ministers and Shadow Ministers across relevant portfolios, we are regularly sought out to provide advice on policies affecting growth areas.

### Part of the Canberra policy landscape

NGAA is a member of the Cities Reference Group - convened by the Minister for Population, Cities and Infrastructure - and the Parliamentary Friends for Better Cities Group.

As a part of these forums, we take a seat at the same table as large national bodies. This includes the Australian Local Government Association, the Property Council of Australia, the Planning of Australia, the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council and the Green Building Council of Australia as well as national transport bodies representing public transport, cyclists and the bus and railway industries.

### Policy wins

NGAA was instrumental in the development of City Deals to achieve long-term strategic investment -involving three levels of government, community and private sector - in one region.

Our research on a 'Dedicated Infrastructure Fund for Australia's Growth Areas' (KPMG) and 'Transformational Infrastructure in Australia's Fast Growing Outer Suburbs' (RMIT) were referenced by senior bureaucrats as influential in the development of this model.

The creation of the \$4 billion Urban Congestion Fund in the 2018-19 Federal Budget, and its continuation in subsequent budgets, was directly influenced by NGAA's advocacy work.

The Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure clearly linked our work with his decision to create the fund. Its implementation resulted in \$740 million allocated to transport projects in NGAA Member

Councils in 2019-20 alone.

### An evidence-based approach

By directly commissioning research, the NGAA's national policy development and advocacy positions are well-informed and support individual Members' submissions and strategies.

Member Councils have direct access to, and opportunities to be directly involved in or profiled in research by national and global thought leaders in cities policy, infrastructure policy and planning, demographics, planning and economics.

### Participation in national academic research

The NGAA is regularly invited to contribute the growth areas perspective and represents Members' experiences in academic studies - increasing the profile of NGAA and its members nationally.

Current research partners include the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute; Future Earth Australia and the Life Course Centre.

### Shared research and practice

NGAA's annual Symposium brings together innovative research and practice being undertaken within our Member Councils to share ideas and knowledge, identify risks and learn from other experiences.



This allows Member Councils, who are responding to similar challenges and opportunities, to pursue innovations with significantly less financial investment than had they undertaken the work alone. It also provides for industry recognition.

## Your voice in Canberra

The NGAA's policy platform, built on a sound evidence base, is the basis of our advocacy directly to the Federal Government and Opposition for improved policies for Australia's growth areas.

The Chair of NGAA and Executive Officer are regular visitors to Parliament House and enjoy productive working relationships with Ministers, Shadow Ministers and Members of Parliament from growth areas.

In 2019, the successful 'Catch Up with the Outer Suburbs' campaign saw community members from NGAA Councils send more than 50,000 emails to key politicians, calling on them to "catch up" with the infrastructure needs of their local communities.

The campaign was launched in Parliament House in February. Almost 20 Members of Parliament attended the event where the Minister, Shadow Minister and a growth area MP spoke.

The impact of our campaign included:

- ▶ Funding commitments for close to \$1 billion for priority projects in NGAA Member municipalities;
- ▶ Commitments to two City Deals in Melbourne; and
- ▶ Speeches quoting our messaging from the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Minister for Cities and Urban Infrastructure and Shadow Minister for Infrastructure.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The NGAA is calling for a comprehensive national approach that includes all three levels of government working together to address the uneven distribution of people, jobs, houses and infrastructure around the country.

We want federal infrastructure funding to go where population growth is occurring.

Our policy platform outlines NGAA's position on a broad range of national policies including detailed background and evidence and call to action for government. Policy Briefs on specific and topical issues are provided exclusively to Members as additional support.

The Policy Platform is evidence-based and highlights the key issues for our Member Councils as well as enabling national profile and messaging to support Council strategy, applications and policies.

### Building Blocks for Smart Growth

The NGAA Policy Platform provides the building blocks for future policy and investment decisions to support Growth Areas, and the nation:

#### 1. Rebalance Australian Capital Cities

Rebalancing the spatial structure of our capital cities needs better planning and investment that supports distributing infrastructure, jobs and housing more evenly across the metropolitan area, including bringing new jobs closer to where the growing population lives. This is a necessary shift in traditional metropolitan planning practices in Australia.

#### 2. Invest in Places for People

As we rebalance the structure of our cities at a metropolitan scale to accommodate growth, innovative place-based and neighbourhood planning and design will bring together the critical elements required to support productive, liveable and resilient places for people to live and work and for businesses to invest.

#### 3. Unlock Economic Growth

Unlock the value in the fast-growing cities, suburbs and towns on the outskirts of Australian capital cities and support the growth of new economies by matching skilled labour to new and emerging industry opportunities, fostering the growth of high amenity, industry and service led innovation precincts for knowledge intensive and small business jobs and expanding the opportunities associated with freight and logistics.

#### 4. Prioritise Transport Solutions

Improve overall transport performance to service the outer urban growth areas of Australia's capital cities through integrated transport networks which connect people and jobs and support active, shared and public transport connectivity to lessen dependence on private vehicles.

Infrastructure Australia CEO, Romilly Madew



# Join the strength of an Alliance

The NGAA is the peak body for local governments in Australia's outer urban growth areas. We are a non-partisan, member-based alliance of Councils in growth areas across Australia.

Join the NGAA to gain immediate access to:

- National representation at the highest levels of Government
- Leading thinkers, planners and influencers who know and understand the issues faced by growth area Councils
- Up-to-date analysis of the issues and matters affecting your council and your community
- Insight into the latest research, innovations and best practice case studies
- Exclusive professional development, peer networks and policy forums for officers at all levels
- Participation in national strategic advocacy campaigns
- Peer reviews and advice on your advocacy strategies and government submissions.

Our Member Councils also benefit from:

- Subscription to the NGAA newsletter and policy updates
- Profiles of Member Council advocacy campaigns on NGAA website and social media
- National media coverage of growth area issues and campaigns
- Subsidised attendance at the annual Congress and Symposium
- Eligibility for annual NGAA Awards, recognising best practice and innovation in growth areas.

## Behind the scenes

### Strategic Advisory Committee

NGAA is governed by a Strategic Advisory Committee of Mayors and Councillors from across Australia. A Chair and Deputy Chair is elected from within the Committee.

An additional management committee of local government senior executives guides the day to day work of the NGAA Secretariat. Our small Secretariat includes Research and Policy, Communications and Events specialists.

## NGAA Members and Strategic Partners

The NGAA comprises 20 Member Councils from across Australia. Together, they represent the nearly five million people living in Australia's fast-growing outer suburbs and are united by shared experiences of population growth rates at double the national average.

### NSW Members

Blacktown City Council  
Camden Council  
Liverpool City Council  
Penrith City Council  
Wollondilly Shire Council

### SA Members

District Council of Mount Barker  
City of Playford

### VIC Members

Cardinia Shire Council  
City of Casey  
Hume City Council  
City of Melton  
Mitchell Shire Council  
City of Whittlesea  
Wyndham City Council

### WA Members

City of Armadale  
City of Cockburn  
City of Gosnells  
City of Kwinana  
City of Swan  
City of Wanneroo

## Membership eligibility and fees

The NGAA is funded by membership fees to represent the interests of our Member Councils and their communities. In recognition of the different stages of growth of eligible Councils, our membership fees are on a sliding scale and are designed to be affordable for all Councils regardless of size.

Our Member Councils:

- ▶ Have population growth above the national average or are projected to within 5-10 years
- ▶ Are both established and emerging growth areas
- ▶ Are located on the outskirts of capital cities.

For more information about eligibility and fees, contact Bronwen Clark, Executive Officer.

## Next Steps

Let's talk! We would be delighted to chat further about joining the NGAA.  
Contact Bronwen Clark, Executive Officer:

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- ✉️ bronwen.clark@ngaa.org.au
- 🌐 www.ngaa.org.au
- 🐦 @NGAA\_AU
- 📌 National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA)

*The City of Cockburn has been a foundation member of the NGAA. The annual congress is not only a great way to hear and see what other members are doing, but to continue putting the NGAA's messages directly into the Federal arena. There is nothing like seeing and hearing what is happening across local government land, meeting other elected members, senior staff and hearing from federal and state members of parliament in what is a complex and ever-changing landscape.*

**Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP, City of Cockburn, Western Australia,**  
2018

*...organisations such as the NGAA play such an integral role in providing a unified voice. I look forward to continuing to work with the NGAA and the councils in this room in the months ahead to advance opportunities in our outer suburbs and ensure their ongoing productivity, sustainability and liveability.*

**Anthony Albanese MP, (then) Shadow Minister for Infrastructure,** at Parliament House launch of NGAA "Catch Up with the Outer Suburbs" campaign. 2019

*NGAA are an effective advocate for the issues facing growth area Councils. Congress provides an opportunity to learn from subject matter experts and government and to apply to some of the issues and challenges facing our Council.*

**Greg Sarre, Manager Economic Development and Sustainable Futures, Mt Barker District Council, South Australia,**  
2018

*The 2019 NGAA National Congress was a great event – the best yet. To hear from our national leaders on their policy position on growth areas provides key insights that can be embedded within advocacy programs.*

**Sean McManus, Manager Engagement & Advocacy, Melton City Council,**  
2019