

National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA)

Locked Bag 1
Bundoora MDC Vic 3083
Phone: 0407 324 178
Email: info@ngaa.org.au
www.ngaa.org.au



MEDIA RELEASE

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Call for 2017-18 Federal Budget to invest in Australia's Growing Outer Suburbs

Chair of the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA), Mayor Glenn Docherty of the City of Playford in Adelaide's north, has called on the Government to invest in growth areas in the 2017-18 Federal Budget.

"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 – can only dream of reaping the benefits of Government investment in transport, services and jobs in their areas," he said.

"The Government has acknowledged that people living in Australia's fast-growing outer suburbs are worse off than their inner metropolitan counterparts.

"Despite this, the level of investment required continues to lag. Our research shows there is already a \$50 billion backlog in roads, rail and health facilities. 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," he said.

Communities and businesses are experiencing a lack of opportunity to work locally, nightmare commutes on congested roads and high living costs, particularly related to travel. These all impact on individual and family health and stress levels as well as costing businesses time and money.

"An investment in roads and public transport, as well creating jobs closer to home would drastically improve life for the 5 million people living in growth areas," Mayor Docherty said.

NGAA is calling on the Government to commit to a dedicated investment package for the fast-growing outer suburbs for strategic roads and rail and other transformational projects. A coordinated cross-Government focus on outer suburban growth areas is also needed.

NGAA represents designated growth areas on the outskirts of capital cities where 5 million people live. Growing at double the national rate, another 2.5 million people are expected to be living here by 2031.

Media Enquiries: Bronwen Clark 0448 401 257