

MEDIA RELEASE

12 September 2017



National Nightmare Commute Day for millions of Australians in Fast-Growing Outer Suburbs

National Nightmare Commute Day, to be held on 14 September 2017, gives a voice – and a hashtag - to the frustration and timewasting experienced by nearly five million Australians living in our fast-growing outer suburbs.

“On National Nightmare Commute Day, Australia’s outer-suburbanites will use **#nightmarecommute** on social media to share their stories of traffic jams, inadequate parking, crowded public transport and wasted hours getting to and from work or study each day,” said Glenn Docherty, Mayor of the City of Playford in Adelaide’s north and Chair of the National Growth Areas Alliance, which convenes the day.

“Where you live has a huge impact on your quality of life – on how easy or hard it is to get to your job; how much time spent in your car on congested roads takes you away from family and friends. We’re seeing this in growth areas right across the country – Sydney’s west, the south-east Queensland growth corridor, the outskirts of Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

“On 14 September, we’re asking commuters, once they get to work or school or university, to tell us how long it took by using **#nightmarecommute** on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.

“Thousands of people are moving to the fast-growing outer suburbs every week, many due to the affordability of homes on the outskirts of our capital cities. But that’s where the affordability stops.

“Too often residents of the fast-growing outer suburbs are forced to travel up to two hours each way just to get to their job, meaning families need two cars. They spend more on petrol and car repairs, and on average waste up to 800 hours every year sitting in traffic instead of spending time with family and friends.

“We want more jobs to be located in the fast-growing outer suburbs to reduce the need for travel and the congestion it causes. But how can we expect businesses to invest when the infrastructure is not up to scratch?”

“A Federal Government focus on fixing traffic congestion, building better and more public transport and supporting job creation in our areas is vital. This is an issue of national importance and needs to be treated as such,” Mayor Docherty said.

Research conducted by the National Growth Areas Alliance, which convenes National Nightmare Commute Day, shows there is a [\\$50 billion backlog in roads, rail and health facilities](#) in fast-growing outer suburbs.

In the last five years, the fast-growing outer suburbs have accommodated 35% of Australia’s population growth, [but only received 13% of Federal government investment in infrastructure](#).

Job numbers are growing in those areas, but can’t keep up with the pace of population growth, leading to a jobs deficit. If left unaddressed, this jobs deficit could create scenarios such as 500,000 people travelling out of Western Sydney to work every day by 2036.

[With population growth at double the national rate, another 2.5 million people are expected to be living here by 2031](#). There is an urgent need to focus Federal policy and funding on the fast-growing outer suburbs.

In 2016, **#nightmarecommute** trended during the morning rush hour. On 14 September, 2017, **#nightmarecommute** will be used across social media. Follow us to keep track of National Nightmare commute Day progress and check www.nightmarecommute.org for background information.



Media Contact 0448 401 257