

NGAA



National Growth Areas Alliance

The voice of Australia's
fastest-growing communities

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NGAA Members





Current NGAA Membership List

NSW:

Blacktown City Council
Camden Council
Campbelltown City Council
Liverpool City Council
The Hills Shire Council
Penrith City Council

VIC:

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

QLD:

Moreton Bay Regional Council
Logan City Council

WA:

City of Gosnells
City of Wanneroo
City of Swan
City of Cockburn
City of Mandurah
Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire
Town of Kwinana
City of Armadale
City of Rockingham

SA:

District Council of Mount Barker

NT:

Palmerston City Council

About NGAA

The National Growth Areas Alliance represents 25 of Australia's fastest growing municipalities.

These municipalities currently house about 3.2 million people. Over the next 20 years NGAA's population will grow at double the national rate.

25 per cent of Australia's metropolitan population is represented by NGAA.

While individual circumstances may differ, all 25 NGAA member councils share the common characteristic of growth and the need to deal with the social, physical and planning challenges that come with it.

NGAA wants to work with the Australian Government to inform policy on the needs and opportunities in growth areas and to achieve more equitable provision of infrastructure and services so growth area communities are more sustainable.

Chair

Cr Linton Reynolds, Mayor of Armadale, WA

Deputy Chair

Cr Robert Macleod, Mayor of Palmerston, NT

Executive

Craig Butler, Director, Penrith City Council, NSW representative
Ian Burfitt, CEO, City of Palmerston, NT representative
Dylan Smith, Advisor, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Qld representative
Andrew Stuart, CEO, District Council of Mt Barker, SA representative
Ray Tame, CEO, City of Armadale, WA representative
David Turnbull, CEO, City of Whittlesea, Victorian representative



Key Issues

A high number of NGAA communities take in former semi-rural areas that are now the nation's newest suburbs and home to thousands of new residents, many of which are young families.

High Living Costs

House price is one attractor, but many are also attracted by environmental features. Despite this attractiveness these families are faced with high living costs, such as mortgages and petrol - due largely to the lack of public transport services – as well as fewer opportunities to access local jobs and community amenities.

Undersupply of Infrastructure and Services

Many NGAA areas are still living with the undersupply of infrastructure and services from past growth. New growth, added to this backlog, makes the need for investment even more urgent, as indicators of disadvantage become manifest.

The demands that rapid growth places on these communities is immense, from the additional traffic on the roads to the need for greater levels of community services such as recreational facilities, libraries and youth services.

The intensive population growth is placing pressure on existing infrastructure and is creating demand for new, more sustainable infrastructure. These growth areas also contain centres which serve wider catchments and contain major regional transport links and areas of environmental and heritage significance. All these assets are under pressure from urban expansion.

Integral Role of Growth Areas

The growth areas play an integral role in accommodating growth in metropolitan regions across the nation but are not equitably equipped with public transport and social infrastructure and services or employment opportunities.

Significant Disadvantage

Growth areas on the fringes of Australian cities are significantly disadvantaged in regard to access to jobs and services. Poor performance compared to metropolitan averages is demonstrated for indicators such as:

- Resident skills
- Local employment opportunities
- Education, health and community services
- Housing diversity
- Housing stress.

NGAA believes that without additional funding to service growth, current and future residents won't have access to the basics, such as safe roads, public transport, local employment, recreation facilities and community services, enjoyed by residents in established suburbs and the gap will widen.

Impact of Status Quo Approach

By not having those facilities and services locally, our residents will have to go elsewhere. This will have negative economic, social and environmental impacts.





What Does NGAA Want to Achieve

Improved Outcomes for our Communities

NGAA wants to close the gap between growth areas and metropolitan averages.

This means:

Improved access to employment opportunities through measures such as:

- assisting young people to stay in school
- providing increased tertiary education opportunities in the outer suburbs
- encouraging access to a greater diversity of employment opportunities for residents in these areas such as locating government offices in outer metropolitan locations.

Better personal mobility through:

- improved public transport for residents in outer suburbs to access jobs and services. This would support increased employment participation, improve productivity and help reduce the environmental impact of emissions from cars.

More local community services including programs which:

- have a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention
- strengthen relationships, develop skills and support parents, children and young people
- provide intensive and coordinated support for vulnerable and at risk families
- are flexible and can be tailored to the needs of each community.

More diverse housing through measures such as:

- planning requirements and incentives to ensure that there is a mixture of housing tenures, sizes and prices. This would support a diverse population and assist in ensuring more sustainable outer urban communities.

National Urban Policy

NGAA believes that the scale of the infrastructure required to support the growth and environmental protection requires an all of Government approach.

In a Policy sense this means:

- A National Urban Policy that recognises, acknowledges and supports the role of growth areas as they relate to local and regional catchments and to CBD's.

The Policy should include a section on growth areas that highlights the need to plan for:

- economic development of greater metropolitan areas
- outer metropolitan activity centres
- diverse employment in close proximity to where people live
- regional community facilities
- standards for infrastructure and services and their implementation
- A requirement that implementation plans such as the South East Queensland Implementation Plan accompany strategic land use plans
- A requirement that Departments plan for population growth and include estimates for servicing it in budget proposals.





A New Deal on Partnerships, Coordination and Delivery

Growth area Councils want a new deal on sharing of responsibilities across Federal, State and Local Government. This includes a new deal on funding, coordination and delivery of infrastructure and services.

The NGAA is able to provide a range of data and research to inform government policy and seeks to work with the Australian Government on an appropriate structure for such a partnership.

Improved Funding Allocations

NGAA is seeking more equitable funding methodologies that ensure the needs of communities in fast-growing areas are met now and in the future. Funding options include:

- New state grants programs for funding infrastructure and services in growth areas;
- Specific Federal programs for leveraging investment across tiers of government (such as a refined Building Better Cities Program);
- Direct Federal provision of regional level infrastructure in growth areas via Infrastructure Australia; and
- Interest free loans for growth area infrastructure.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE

NGAA has available a number of research documents and submissions as well as bulletins of NGAA activities, available on NGAA's website www.ngaa.org.au

NGAA is also able to provide real time information about the growth areas to assist policy and program formulation.

CONTACT

General enquiries can be made to info@ngaa.org.au

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