



GROWTH COUNCILS SEEK DETAIL ON PM'S FUNDING PLEDGE

August 21, 2007

www.fundthegap.org

Media Release

The National Growth Areas Alliance today welcomed Prime Minister John Howard's commitment to more funding for local infrastructure, but reaffirmed that any response must provide long-term solutions for the nation's fastest-growing regions.

NGAA spokesman, Cr Linton Reynolds, said that while it was encouraging the Federal Government recognised the need for more funds, communities in high-growth suburban areas must not be overlooked.

"The NGAA represents one in four Australians and 30 of the fastest-growing councils in Australia," Cr Reynolds, the Mayor of the City of Armadale said.

"Our members have genuine fears that the lack of social and community infrastructure will have dire short and long-term consequences on residents, particularly as our population continues to rapidly expand.

"NGAA councils need to spend \$11.7 billion on infrastructure over the next 15 years and we are facing a funding shortfall of \$3.1 billion.

"That's why the NGAA has launched the Fund The Gap campaign, which is calling on both sides of Federal politics to address what is a looming crisis in high-growth areas."

Key points

- Population represented by NGAA 5.25 million
- Councils represented by NGAA 30
- Expected NGAA population by 2022 6.66 million
- Forecast infrastructure spend 2007-2022 \$11.7 billion
- Estimated funding shortfall \$3.1 billion
- Estimated yearly shortfall \$206 million
- Funding sought per NGAA resident \$39 per annum

Cr Reynolds said NGAA members were expecting to hear more details on funding solutions from the Government and Opposition who are scheduled to speak at the inaugural Fund the Gap Summit, to be held in Melbourne on August 31.

"NGAA wants to see a fair methodology in the distribution of funding to councils from State and Federal Governments now and into the future. We look forward to further discussions following the Prime Minister's announcement of yesterday," Cr Reynolds said.

For more information: www.fundthegap.org

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