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## Councils unite for a bigger slice of pie

SOUTH-EAST Queensland councils have the chance to join a national movement aiming to secure more Federal Government funding for their local infrastructure needs.

Already, 30 of Australia's fastest-growing councils have united to seek \$3.1 billion to avert a looming crisis in social and physical infrastructure.

In the lead-up to this year's Federal election, the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) will campaign to raise awareness of the issue among Federal politicians and local communities.

NGAA spokesman Cr Sam Alessi said at the moment one in four Australians

lived within an NGAA municipality, and so a proportional share of the Federal Government's more than \$10 billion surplus was long-overdue.

"While councils are committed to providing services and amenities for residents, there is a massive gap between what councils can fund and what our residents need," Cr Alessi said.

"That is why we launched our Fund the Gap campaign.

"It is intended to highlight a critical issue in our rapidly-expanding municipalities where an estimated \$11.7 billion needs to be spent on infrastructure in NGAA areas over the next 15 years."

■ Visit [www.fundthegap.org](http://www.fundthegap.org).