

## Fast-growing councils snubbed in week one of election campaign

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# Media Release

With the Federal election campaign into its second week, a coalition of 30 councils has accused both major parties of ignoring the needs of more than five million Australians in fast-growing communities.

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) represents one in four Australians and is seeking \$3.1 billion in Federal funding for vital social and community infrastructure in metropolitan growth areas.

“Week one of the campaign was disappointing,” NGAA national spokesperson, Cr Linton Reynolds, said.

“Neither party has addressed the critical infrastructure issues our residents are dealing with now, let alone in 10 to 15 years into the future.

“As we represent one quarter of Australia’s population – a significant voting bloc– we deserve one quarter of our political leaders’ time, attention and funds.

“That’s why we are monitoring election spending and the travel commitments of the major party leaders during the election campaign through our ‘Quarter of the time, quarter of the money’ index, which will be regularly updated during the campaign.

“Inadequate federal funding for council-provided libraries, community services and sports facilities in fast-growing areas will only snowball. Canberra must act on this serious issue. We can’t do it on our own.”

The NGAA is calling on the Federal Government to fund a \$3.1 billion shortfall NGAA councils face in providing social and community infrastructure over the next 15 years.

Independent research shows NGAA councils need to spend an estimated \$11.7 billion on infrastructure to meet the demands of their constantly-growing communities.

Councils fear that if the funding shortfall continues, current and future residents will be deprived of basic services, such as safe roads, recreation facilities and community facilities, to name but a few.

“Whether you are managing growth in the outer regions of Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Sydney, Brisbane or Darwin, the challenges are similar,” Cr Reynolds said.

“That is why we are working together to ensure Canberra recognises our issues and puts in place a process – that includes the NGAA – to adequately fund these services our communities need.

“We are putting all election candidates on notice. Ignore the needs of fast-growing councils at your peril.”

To view the NGAA election index, log on to [www.fundthegap.org](http://www.fundthegap.org)

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