



## **Councils converge on Melbourne to call on Canberra to Fund the Gap**

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www.fundthegap.org

**Media Release**

Community services, libraries and sports facilities most Australians take for granted are under threat in the nation's fast-growing areas, according to the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA), a coalition of 30 of Australia's fastest-growing council areas.

NGAA member councils will meet in Melbourne next week as part of the Fund the Gap campaign aimed at securing funding for social and community infrastructure in rapidly-growing areas.

"Our growth communities are suffering from a lack of services, a lack of facilities and a lack of Federal funding," NGAA national spokesperson, Cr Linton Reynolds, said.

"Twenty five per cent of the Australian population lives in under-serviced and under-funded fast-growing areas.

"Local government is doing its best to meet the demands placed on them by population growth but it's time Canberra did its bit and helped to fund the gap."

Federal Minister for Local Government, Jim Lloyd and the Opposition Spokesperson on Local Government, Kate Lundy are due to speak at the August 31 summit.

"NGAA councils, politicians, academics, social and community workers and developers will all be at the summit," Cr Reynolds said.

"This is a non-partisan campaign we are making the same demands to both sides of politics, ensuring the NGAA's voice is heard."

"In early September an NGAA delegation is heading to Canberra to meet with both sides of politics, ensuring our demands are placed firmly on the national agenda."

NGAA research identified a need for \$11.7 billion to fund social infrastructure in fast growing councils over the coming 15 years.

"There is a \$3.1 billion shortfall between the services needed and those councils can afford to fund and we are calling on Canberra to fund the gap," Cr Reynolds said.

"That equates to a mere \$39 a year for every NGAA resident – less than it now costs for a family to enjoy a night out at the movies.

"Our parks, our libraries, our social fabric are all at risk."

The Fund the Gap Summit will be held from 9.30am – 5.00pm on Friday, August 31, at the Spring Street Conference Centre, Mezzanine Level, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne.

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