



# Federal funds push

By **LOUISE FUCHSBICHLER**

HILLS residents living or working in the City of Swan are being urged to help the local council lobby the Federal Government for a share of \$3.1 billion to ensure the city can continue to provide, maintain and replace infrastructure.

The city has joined the National Growth Areas Alliance and is one of 30 Australian councils lobbying Canberra for extra funding as part of the Fund the Gap campaign.

Swan Mayor Charlie Gregorini said the area's population would increase by half before 2021 and current funding levels would make it a struggle to provide new infrastructure and maintain exist-

ing infrastructure and services.

"It is likely residents living or working in areas covered by the *Hills Gazette* will be affected, and so we are asking everyone to take part in this campaign and pressure the Federal Government to invest some of the \$10 billion federal budget surplus in growth areas," he said.

He asked people to write to relevant government ministers to help the city with its cause.

Mr Gregorini said the city was responsible for a large amount of existing infrastructure in the Hills area, including the Swan Park Leisure Centre, sports facilities, dozens of reserves, valuable natural bushland reserves, streetscapes, local roads, drainage, foot-

paths and the Midland Public Library.

"Hills areas in the City of Swan already value community infrastructure and use it well," he said.

"Gidgegannup residents in particular work in partnership with the city to establish and maintain this infrastructure, so it is essential to ensure these facilities remain well-maintained and continue to meet the community's needs."

Mr Gregorini said without more funding, long-term capital works could also suffer, such as the Perth to Adelaide National Highway and community facility refurbishments including halls, pavilions and other infrastructure in Gidgegannup, Midland and Guildford.

See [www.fundthegap.org](http://www.fundthegap.org).