

NGGA receives encouraging signals from Federal politicians

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Delegation reaffirms critical need to Fund the Gap

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) says the critical need for more funding for social and community infrastructure in high-growth areas is firmly on the national political agenda following a lobbying delegation to Canberra this week.

NGAA representatives from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia met with both sides of federal politics, including Local Government Minister, Mr Jim Lloyd, and Shadow Treasurer, Mr Wayne Swan.

NGAA national spokesman, Cr Linton Reynolds, said the day's meetings were positive and encouraging.

"We represent one in four Australians - a figure that will continue to grow. It was important for our members to put our case directly to the Federal Government which has a \$17.3 billion surplus," Cr Reynolds said.

"In some council areas, the population is rising by more than 25 per cent each year, which is stretching existing infrastructure while also creating a need for more of the very things that turn a group of houses into a community.

"The response from both sides of politics was encouraging. We were particularly pleased that they flagged an intention to give NGAA a 'seat at the table' for future reviews and discussions into council funding programs.

"Both sides are aware of and acknowledged the need for Federal involvement in the delivery of community infrastructure and we look forward to working with them to deliver long-term solutions to residents in our fast-growing municipalities."

Comprising 30 councils from across Australia, the NGAA has identified that councils in fast-growing areas face a \$3.1 billion shortfall in funding for social and community infrastructure over the next 15 years.

Key points:

- Population represented by NGAA 5.25 million
- 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 P/A

"There is growing awareness of the specific needs of fast-growing council areas and we will continue to engage our local communities in the Fund the Gap campaign leading up to and after the federal election," Cr Reynolds said.

For more information, log on to www.fundthegap.org

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