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# National Growth Areas Alliance Annual Report

2022

-23

## NGAA Chair and CEO's joint report

As we reflect upon the dynamic landscape of growth areas in Australia, we are proud to present the annual report of the National Growth Areas Alliance for 2022/23.

Our Alliance continues to grow in influence and impact, building a strong reputation in all levels of government and ensuring the needs of our communities remain at the forefront of policy making.

After extensive campaigning in the lead up to the May 2022 Federal election, we celebrated:

- \$750 million for local road and community infrastructure projects.
- The appointment of our CEO, Bronwen Clark, to the Urban Policy Forum by The Hon. Catherine King MP. This appointment is a testament to the NGAA's commitment to shaping urban policies for the benefit of outer suburban communities.
- A stronger than ever presence of suburban challenges and opportunities in political rhetoric.
- Reviews of process and transparency of infrastructure funding in Australia, including the review of Infrastructure Australia.
- New directions for job creation and skills training in growth areas with the creation of Jobs and Skills Australia.
- Creation of Outer Suburban Study Hubs to assist our young people access higher education.
- New funding programs: Thriving Suburbs for community infrastructure and Urban Precincts and Partnerships for collaborative and strategic projects aimed at job creation and community and economic development.

## NGAA Chair and CEO's joint report

We remain committed to ensuring that the one in five Australians residing on the outskirts of major cities receive the attention and infrastructure they deserve. This year, our advocacy efforts focused on our four growth area priorities:

- Leadership for climate adapted, resilient suburbs;
- Infrastructure to transform outer suburban communities;
- Realising the economic potential of growth areas; and
- Invest in community resilience and social capital.

As the outer suburbs continue to outpace the nation's growth, our message to the Federal government remained consistent: prioritise the needs of 5.3 million Australians in our growing communities. We advocated for comprehensive infrastructure investment, highlighting the importance of transport and community facilities that are often overlooked.

With the help of RMIT University's Centre for Urban Research, we launched ground-breaking research "The benefits and challenges of Australian Government investment in infrastructure in outer suburban growth areas." The findings highlight how modest federal government investments in growth area infrastructure and services significantly increase local employment and stimulate local economies, amongst other benefits. The report also identifies successful models for Federal and State Government investment in economic, community and transport infrastructure.

## NGAA Chair and CEO's joint report

This year also saw several in-person events, providing opportunities to learn from each other about innovative approaches to unique challenges faced in our communities. We took our message to Canberra, hosting a Parliamentary Showcase where Local Government Minister The Hon. Kristy McBain joined around a dozen Parliamentarians to hear our latest research outcomes and advocacy asks.

Another highlight was our annual National Congress, held in Hahndorf with the theme Suburbia 3.0: Urban policy for sustainable and resilient communities. Hosted by Mount Barker District Council, the event brought together NGAA members and stakeholders for an in-depth examination of the policy shifts required to create sustainable and resilient new suburbs.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members, stakeholders, and supporters. Your continued involvement and cooperation have been instrumental in our collective success. Special thanks go to the Mayors, Councillors, and officers who have contributed their time and expertise to our various committees, ensuring the NGAA remains a driving force in shaping the future of growth areas.

In the spirit of collaboration and shared vision, we look forward to another year of impactful advocacy and positive change for Australia's outer urban growth areas.

*Matthew Deeth and Bronwen Clark*

# NGAA GOVERNANCE

Thank you to our Strategic Advisory Committee and Committee of Management for your support, engagement and input throughout the year.

## Strategic Advisory Committee July-December 2022

Meetings: 10 June 2022 | 28 October 2022



**Cr Matthew Deeth**

Wollondilly Shire Council  
Chair



**Mayor Tracey Roberts**

City of Wanneroo  
Deputy Chair



**Cr Brett Treby**

City of Wanneroo  
Deputy Chair



**Mayor Glenn Docherty**

City of Playford



**Cr Collin Ross**

Cardinia Shire Council



**Cr Charishma Kaliyanda**

Liverpool City Council



**Mayor Carol Adams**

City of Kwinana



**Mayor Ann Ferguson**

Mount Barker District Council



**Cr Peter Maynard**

Wyndham City Council

# NGAA GOVERNANCE

**Strategic Advisory Committee January 2023 - Present**

**Meetings: 24 February 2023 | 14 April 2023**



**Cr Matthew Deeth**

Wollondilly Shire Council  
Chair



**Cr Brett Treby**

City of Wanneroo  
Deputy Chair



**Cr Todd Carney**

Penrith City Council



**Mayor Glenn Docherty**

City of Playford



**Mayor Terresa Lynes**

City of Gosnells



**Mayor David Leach**

Mount Barker District Council



**Cr Joseph Haweill**

Mayor, Hume City Council



**Cr Stephanie Davies**

Cardinia Shire Council



**Cr Peter Maynard**

Wyndham City Council

# NGAA GOVERNANCE

## Committee of Management

Meetings: 1 July 2022 | 21 October 2022 | 17 March 2023 | 30 June 2023

NSW	<p>Chris Shannon, Manager Strategic Planning <i>Blacktown City Council</i></p> <p>Ben Taylor, CEO <i>Wollondilly Shire Council</i></p>
VIC	<p>Stephen Wall, CEO <i>Wyndham City Council</i></p> <p>James Collins, Director City Planning &amp; Infrastructure <i>City of Casey</i></p> <p>Justin O'Meara, Director Planning and Development <i>City of Whittlesea</i></p>
SA	<p>Sam Green, CEO <i>City of Playford</i></p>
WA	<p>Daniel Simms, CEO <i>City of Wanneroo</i></p> <p>Tony Brun, CEO <i>City of Cockburn</i></p>

# DELIVERING ON THE 2022-23 OPERATIONAL PLAN

## 1. Federal and State Government policies impacting outer urban growth areas better meet local government needs and expectations



Our submission and advocacy efforts to inform decision makers in the lead up to the Federal Budget for 2023/24 was based on four key recommendations:

1. Australian Government leadership for climate adapted, resilient suburbs
2. Infrastructure to transform outer suburban communities
3. Realising the economic potential of growth areas
4. Invest in community resilience and social capital

[See more in our 2023/24 Federal Budget Pre-Submission.](#)

### Meetings

NGAA held meetings and had ongoing discussions with the following:

- Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon. Catherine King MP and advisors
- Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Kristy McBain MP and advisors
- The Hon. Patrick Gorman MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister
- The Hon. Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury
- Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP, Greens Spokesperson for Infrastructure and Sustainable Cities
- Tracey Roberts MP Member for Pearce, Tania Lawrence MP Member for Swan, Anne Stanley MP Member for Werriwa, Rebekha Sharkie MP Member for Mayo
- Office of the Hon. Julie Collins MP, Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Small Business Housing and Small Business
- Office of The Hon. Brendan O'Connor MP, Minister for Skills and Training
- Office of Senator Carol Brown, Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Senator for Tasmania
- Office of Senator Bridget McKenzie, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure



# DELIVERING ON THE 2022-23 OPERATIONAL PLAN

## 1. Federal and State Government policies impacting outer urban growth areas better meet local government needs and expectations

### *Advocacy*

As a result of our strong advocacy efforts, we celebrate the following results:

- NGAA CEO Bronwen Clark appointed to the National Urban Policy Forum
- Re-establishment of the Cities and Suburbs Unit
- Thriving Suburbs Program for community infrastructure in suburban communities
- Establishment of the Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program



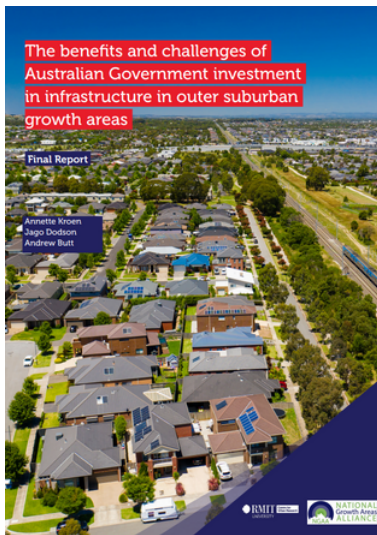
### *Submissions*

Other submissions in this reporting period include:

- [Review of Infrastructure Australia](#)
- [New National Cultural Policy](#)
- [Jobs and Skills Australia](#)

# DELIVERING ON THE 2022-23 OPERATIONAL PLAN

## 2. Member Councils have increased capacity to build liveable, resilient communities



Held in August 2022, our annual symposium aligned with the launch of new research. Developed in conjunction with the Centre for Urban Research at RMIT University, “Benefit evaluation of Australian Government investment in infrastructure in outer suburban growth areas” assesses the quantitative and qualitative benefits of federal and state investment in growth areas and provides a resource for growth area councils to draw on when considering similar projects.

The symposium was a fantastic event attended by over 160 people and hosted by the City of Whittlesea.

### *Parliamentary Showcase*

The NGAA visited Canberra in November to advocate for the future of growing communities in Australia.

NGAA members met with federal ministers, raising awareness of challenges faces by their communities and to ensure growth areas are prioritised in decision making.



# DELIVERING ON THE 2022-23 OPERATIONAL PLAN

## 2. Member Councils have increased capacity to build liveable, resilient communities



Hosted by Mount Barker District Council, we held our annual congress in May, providing a forum for members and key stakeholders to discuss the policy shifts needed to create sustainable and resilient new suburbs.

Topics covered climate change, building sustainable suburbs and the emerging role of First Nations design, digital twins and community based change management readiness.

The tour of Mount Barker included South Australia's newest passive house, landscape-sensitive design in new developments, water treatment and the local wine industry.



## DELIVERING ON THE 2022-23 OPERATIONAL PLAN

### 2. Member Councils have increased capacity to build liveable, resilient communities

#### *Members lunch at ALGA's National General Assembly*

We hosted an exclusive lunch for NGAA members during ALGA's NGA in Canberra to brief them on the National Urban Policy framework. Chair Matthew Deeth also represented the Alliance on a panel with The Hon. Catherine King MP at the Council of Local Governments Members' meeting.



### *Research*

We continued to focus on research to ensure best knowledge and data is informing our policy positions and advocacy for our members.

In addition to our major research with RMIT, we also worked with .id Informed Decisions, to deliver the following reports:

- [Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics of Growth Areas](#)
- [State of Australia's Growth Areas - Population and Housing Supply](#)



# DELIVERING ON THE 2022-23 OPERATIONAL PLAN

## 3. Both the challenges and opportunities in growth areas are positively represented in national discourse

2022/23 continued to be a strong year of raising the profile of the NGAA and ensuring the perspectives of growth areas are seen on a national level.

One major win for the NGAA was the appointment of CEO, Bronwen Clark, to the National Urban Policy forum. This honour recognises the expertise NGAA can bring to the discussion on how our cities are built.

2022/23 Media coverage included:

Housing blocks in Melbourne's outer suburbs getting smaller, as developers flag affordability issue ABC

Outer suburbs hold the key to unlocking Australia's productivity challenge Business Daily Media

Outer suburbs missing out in fed jobs push AAP

An hour and a half to drive 3km — why is traffic so bad in Melbourne's outer suburbs? ABC

Wollondilly Council accuses NSW government of 'ramming' through housing expansion ABC Illawarra

Northern Lights: In John Brumby's field of dreams this is Melbourne's second CBD The Age

Millions living on city fringes at risk from climate disasters ABC



# DELIVERING ON THE 2022-23 OPERATIONAL PLAN

## 3. Both the challenges and opportunities in growth areas are positively represented in national discourse



NGAA was also represented at various industry events.

- CEO Bronwen Clark presented at the Retrofitting Suburbia event, run by Suburban Futures.
- Tackling Poverty and Disadvantage through Data Roundtable hosted by The Melbourne Institute
- Panellist at Melbourne launch of the Digital Twins Partnership
- Studio THI Step-Change Cities Partnership presentation
- Earth Observation Australia presentation on use of satellite imagery in growth area decision making
- Council of Australian Local Governments, Urban Policy Panel



# DELIVERING ON THE 2022-23 OPERATIONAL PLAN

## 4. The Alliance is sustainable, accountable and engaged

- We thank all members for their continued active participation in our networks, attendance at events and input into submissions and policy development.
- The Alliance focused on relationship building efforts with Queensland growth Councils. Representatives visited Moreton Bay Regional Council and Redlands City Council, to show the benefits of being part of the Alliance. Queensland expansion will continue to be a focus for the year ahead.
- We welcomed the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Logan City Council, Deputy Mayor of Ipswich City Council and officers from Moreton Bay Regional Council to our Members' lunch during the ALGA NGA
- We thank the City of Whittlesea for being a Major Partner and auspicing the NGAA.
- In 2022/23 we also welcomed back Campbelltown City Council and Camden Council.
- 19 articles were published on the NGAA website
- 56 e-newsletters were sent to members and stakeholders

# DELIVERING ON THE 2022-23 OPERATIONAL PLAN

## 4. The Alliance is sustainable, accountable and engaged

### *Events*



**August 2022**  
Annual Symposium



**November 2022**  
NGAA Research Launch at Parliament House Canberra



**November 2022**  
Annual Members' Meeting and Strategic Review Workshop



**May 2023**  
National Congress at Hahndorf, South Australia



**June 2023**  
NGAA Member's Meeting and Lunch at ALGA National General Assembly

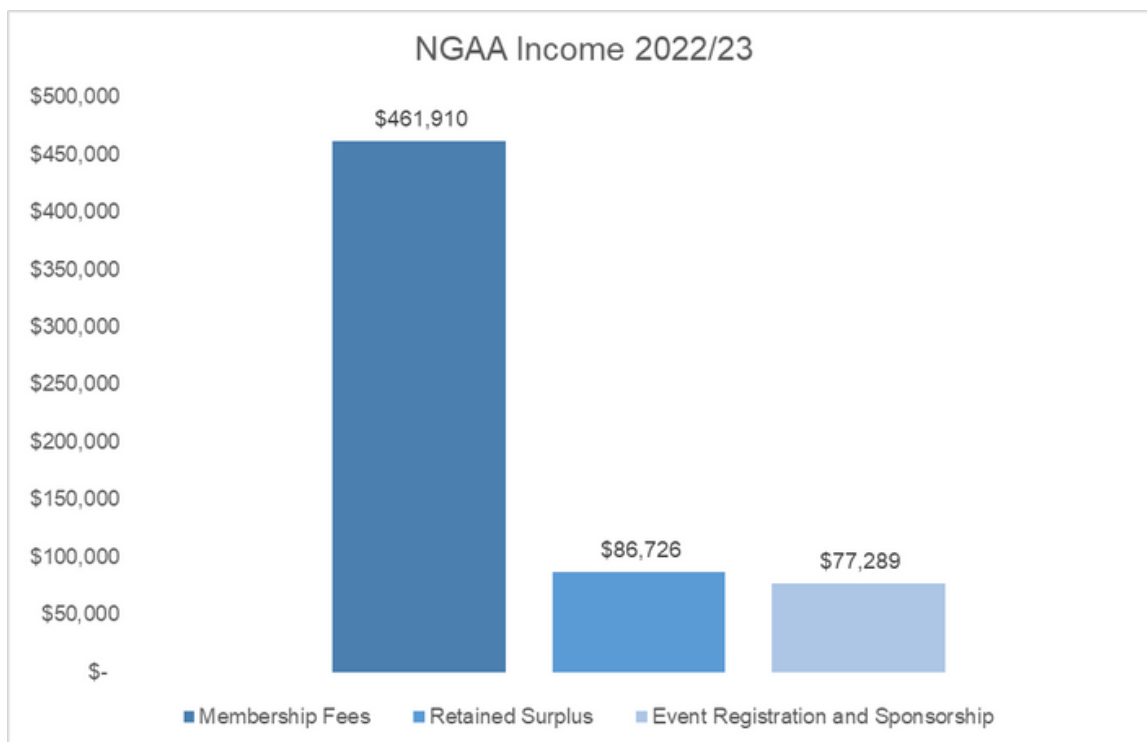


# FINANCE

NGAA is auspiced by the City of Whittlesea and in 2023 we are pleased to see the Council adopt an Auspicing Policy that provides a higher degree of certainty and rigour in the delivery of services to NGAA by the City of Whittlesea.

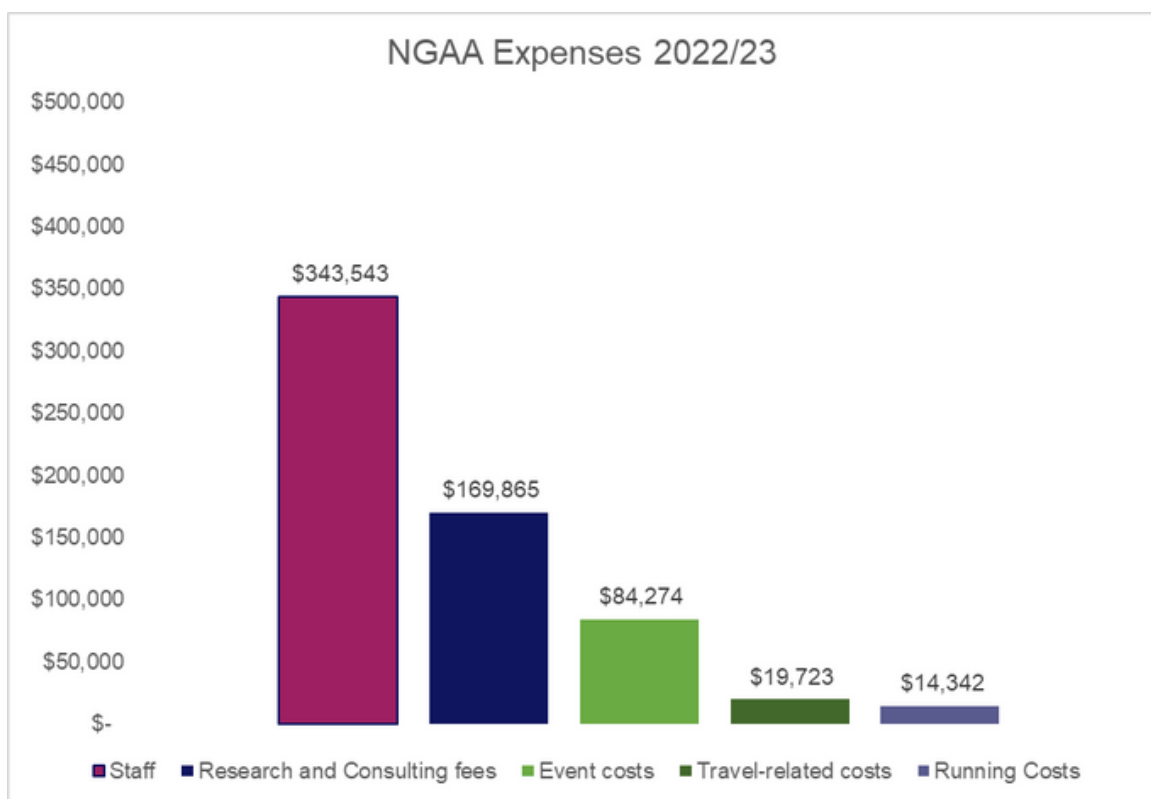
We started 2022/23 financial year with a retained surplus of \$86,726, of which \$40,000 was earmarked for research commissioned in 21/22 (using funds from Members' election campaign contribution) but completed and paid for in 22/23.

Membership fees of \$461,910 covered all staffing and running costs as well as commissioned research, purchased data, consulting fees for strategic communications and government relations advice.



# FINANCE

Our end of year was a deficit of \$7,141, brought about by lower than expected income event registrations for Symposium and Congress and increased costs from adding the November Parliamentary Showcase to the event calendar, including covering travel costs for SAC members. There were also significant costs from a staffing perspective in terms of paying out leave entitlements and recruiting new staff, both of which were not expected at the start of the financial year.



# SECRETARIAT

Secretariat staffing levels for 2022/23 were as follows:

- Chief Executive Officer – Bronwen Clark
- National Communications Coordinator – Helen Wells (until June 2023)
- National Research and Policy Coordinator – Nicola Ward (until February 2023) and Caroline Speed (June 2023 onwards)
- Advocacy Support Officer – Katherine Sorrell



# MEMBERS

