

Implementation: National Growth Areas Infrastructure Investment Framework

RECOGNISE	Rationale			
	Equitable investment in strategic and social infrastructure in outer metropolitan growth regions will benefit Australia's future resilience, productivity and sustainability and the wellbeing of one in five Australians.			
RECOGNISE	Purpose			
	The Framework is a new approach to nationally coordinated investment in Australia's fastest growing metropolitan regions – valuing local voices and priorities, being informed by and building the evidence, operating with flexibility, integrity and transparency, and coordinating across governments to make investments work better for these nationally significant regions. It provides an integrated framework for investing in strategic and social infrastructure that enables housing delivery and creates resilient, liveable and thriving communities.			
RECOGNISE	Guiding Principles			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia's growth regions, their communities, economies, built and natural environments and cultural heritage are diverse, with each having unique strengths and challenges. Realising aspirations of local communities in outer metropolitan growth areas and Australia's national commitments to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals requires specific regional investment across all portfolios. Place-based decision making that draws on the experience of local government alongside state government agencies and regional bodies must guide investment in our outer metropolitan growth regions. 			
PRIORITISE	Priority Focus Areas			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing the potential of growth regions requires addressing the existing infrastructure deficits, planning for growth and building on each region's unique strengths. Investment in growth areas can help deliver multiple social and economic benefits locally as well as nationally agreed priorities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing the Gap for First Nations people - Achieving a Net zero economy - Providing universal accessibility 			
RESOURCE	Investing in Strategic Transport Connections	Investing in Housing and Liveable Communities	Investing in Vibrant Precincts and Centres	Investing in Local Industries and Economies
PARTNER	Informed Investment	Coordination and Collaboration	Insights and Intelligence	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commonwealth's Budget and Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook processes will ensure the Framework is influencing Government decision making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commonwealth will work in genuine partnerships with local and state and territory governments through refreshed, regular forums - supporting joined-up outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local insights, data and intelligence will be central to decision making, drawing on a broad range of groups and networks, such as local government and Regional Development Australia committees. 	
REVIEW	Program review	Monitoring outcomes	Reporting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly report on program delivery and outcomes included in Budget papers. Analysed by region, investment priorities and projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparent reporting of project progress including costs, delivery timeframes and outcomes used to inform benefit cost analysis for future projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local insights, data and intelligence will contribute to evidence-based decision making and delivery of regular State of the Cities and Regions reports. 	



RECOMMENDATIONS

Investment solutions for today's infrastructure needs and tomorrow's housing in Outer-Metropolitan Growth Areas

01 Recognise outer metropolitan growth areas as regions requiring specific attention in Commonwealth funding programs across portfolios



02 Prioritise funding to fix the infrastructure deficits in growth areas



03 Resource growth areas equitably through a national infrastructure investment framework



FROM DEFICIT TO EQUITY



Investment Solutions for Today's Infrastructure Needs and Tomorrow's Housing in Outer-Metropolitan Growth Areas.

For decades, Australia's growth areas have been the backbone of national housing delivery, and they will continue to be critical for future housing supply.

However, rapid population growth in these vibrant outer metropolitan cities and suburbs has not been matched with sufficient investment in infrastructure and essential services.

This gap leaves communities without the public transport, jobs, higher education, and recreational facilities they need to thrive. A national growth areas infrastructure investment framework is needed now to achieve the goal of sustainable urban growth.

Growth Areas have been a **20,626 square kilometre policy blind spot.**

Continuum of Growth



Investing in Australia's Growth: A National Priority

<p>21% of Australia's population and growing faster than other regions</p> <p>5.6 million people call growth areas home. Population increased by 8.4% from 2021-2023 compared to 4.9% nationwide. <small>(ABS, Estimated Resident Population 2023)</small></p>	<p>Housing Australia's Future</p> <p>Projected 1.5 million more residents by 2031 with higher birth rates than other regions, our Growth Areas are home to 1 in 4 Australian children. <small>(ABS, Estimated Residential Population (2023) and Capuano, G 2024, Australia's birth rate falls to an all-time low, id informed decisions)</small></p>	<p>Solving the housing shortage</p> <p>Growth areas will deliver over 25% of the National Housing Accord target with the potential to deliver much more. <small>(Based on State government planning policies and housing estimates.)</small></p>	<p>Significant Economic Potential</p> <p>Growth areas generated \$247 billion in gross regional product and supported an estimated 1.8 million jobs. This represents 12.2% of Australia's GDP and 13.7% in terms of local jobs. <small>(id informed decisions, (2023), Economic State of Australia's Growth Areas)</small></p>
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Understanding the Infrastructure Gap in Growth Areas

Percentage difference in access to public transport and social infrastructure in Growth Areas compared to non-growth areas

- 37%** lower access to **Public Transport** than non-growth areas
- 68%** less access to **Sports & Leisure** facilities than non-growth areas (Liveability indicator score: 0.07 vs. 0.23)
- 44%** less access to **Arts & Culture** facilities than non-growth areas (Liveability indicator score: 0.49 vs. 0.87)
- 48%** less access to **Health Care** facilities than non-growth areas (Liveability indicator score: 1.25 vs. 2.42)
- 21%** less access to **Education** facilities than non-growth areas (Liveability indicator score: 1.99 vs. 2.53)

To see the full Growth Areas Liveability Scorecards, please visit ngaa.org.au/advocacy

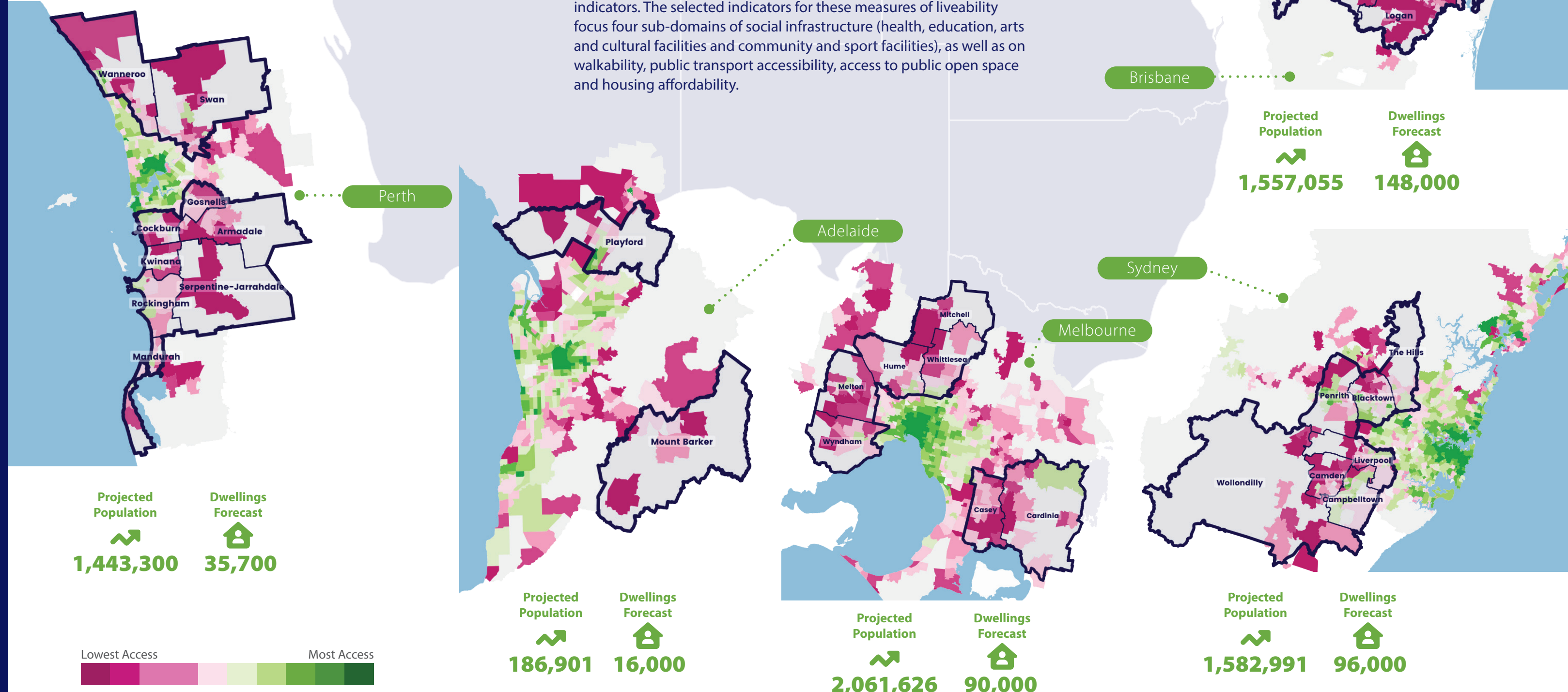


More than **30%** of recent national growth, but only **15%** of federal funding.

City Liveability Scorecards for National Growth Areas

RMIT and the Australian Urban Observatory have developed City Liveability Scorecards for Australia's Growth Areas, which highlight liveability inequity across Australian cities.

The City Liveability Scorecards show the distribution of measures of liveability by suburb within each capital city using data for 10 indicators. The selected indicators for these measures of liveability focus four sub-domains of social infrastructure (health, education, arts and cultural facilities and community and sport facilities), as well as on walkability, public transport accessibility, access to public open space and housing affordability.



Source: NSW Government 2022 NSW Common Planning Assumption Projections, Local Government Areas (ASGS 2020) Projections for year ending 30 June. | Queensland Government population projections, 2023 edition; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional population, 2021. | Population Projections for South Australian Local Government Areas, 2021-41, January 2024, Department of Trade and Investment, Government of South Australia, 2024 | Victoria Government 2023 Victoria in Future (VIF) population and household projections, Second Release (December 2023), Estimated Resident Population (ERP) and Local Government Areas (LGA) and Victoria in Future Small Areas (VIFSA) in Victoria | Western Australia Government Western Australia Tomorrow, Population Report No. 11, Medium Term Population Forecasts for Western Australia 2016 to 2031 and Sub-regions 2016 to 2031.

International Best Practices in Infrastructure Funding: Lessons for Australia's Outer Metropolitan Growth Areas

Australia can look to international models for effective solutions to its growth area funding gap.

A report from Western Sydney University's Urban Transformations Research Centre highlights best practices in infrastructure funding, offering insights into strategies for addressing challenges in Australia's growth areas.

Based on case studies, the Commonwealth Government should consider these insights to strengthen funding frameworks.

- Establish multi-year funding commitments to ensure stability in infrastructure planning and maintenance.
- Strengthen collaboration with local stakeholders and community organisations.
- Implement integrated funding frameworks that focus on long-term community needs.
- Developing clear prioritisation criteria for impactful projects that specifically address the needs of outer metropolitan growth areas.
- Incorporating regular evaluation to guide continuous improvement.

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Urban Transformations Research Centre