



NATIONAL CONGRESS

2025



THE FUTURE OF GROWTH AREAS

Economy | Communities | Councils





The National Growth Areas Alliance extends sincere thanks to the organisations and individuals who have made this year's Congress possible.

Hosts



Major Sponsor



Partner

**BUSINESS
EVENTS
PERTH**

Contacts

Bronwen Clark, CEO NGAA: **0448 401 257**

Michelle Jack, Communications Coordinator: **0408 411 848**

Courtney Mazzini, City of Gosnells: **0484 272 982**

PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Australia's outer metropolitan growth areas are home to over 5.8 million people - and that number continues to grow. As we navigate a period of rapid transformation, NGAA Congress 2025 brings together leaders from all levels of government, industry, and research to shape a shared vision for the future.

Welcome Drinks **Tuesday, 29 July | 5:00pm – 7:00pm**
Little Creatures Brewery, Fremantle
40 Mews Rd, Fremantle WA 6160
Ease into Congress with an informal evening of networking and connection.

Perth Growth Area Site Tour **Wednesday, 30 July | 8:30am – 3:30pm**
Pick-up from Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges

- Kwinana Energy Recovery Centre
- Australian Marine Complex
- **12:00pm** Keynote Luncheon at Jakovich Centre
2/4 McGrath Rd, Henderson WA 6166

A behind-the-scenes look at innovation and investment in WA's southern corridor.

Sunset Dinner & Drinks **Wednesday, 30 July | 4:00pm – 8:00pm**
Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club, 20 Poore Grove, Coogee WA 6166
Attendees of the site tour will be driven directly to the venue.
Relax by the ocean with food, drinks and good company.
Buses will transport attendees back to The Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges at the end of the event.

National Congress **Thursday, 31 July | 8:00am – 4:00pm**
Pick-up from Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges
A full day of keynotes, panels and policy discussion.

- **9:00am** Welcome to Country at Mary Carroll Park, Gosnells WA 6110
- **9:45am** Stop at Youth Entertainment Space (YES), Sutherlands Park, Holmes St, Huntingdale WA 6110
- **10:00am** Mills Park, Brixton St, Beckenham WA 6107

Rottnest Island Day Trip **Friday, 1 August | 8:30am – 4:00pm**
Pick-up from Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges
Alternatively, meet at Sealink Ferry terminal, Fremantle

- **9:00am** Ferry Departure
- **2:30pm** Ferry Return #1
- **4:00pm** Ferry Return #2

A chance to connect and reflect while exploring one of WA's most iconic locations.
Upon return to Fremantle via ferry, attendees are kindly asked to make their own way from the terminal.

Mayor of City of Cockburn



On behalf of the City of Cockburn I am excited to welcome you to the 2025 National Congress of the National Growth Areas Alliance alongside my colleague Mayor Teresa Lynes from the City of Gosnells. I am looking forward to networking with both familiar and new faces and sharing the experiences we all face as growth councils.

This year's Congress themes: on future economies, future communities, and future councils – are timely reminders of the work ahead.

At the City of Cockburn, a key focus for us is enabling the growth of the blue economy and defence industries. The Blue economy is an economic opportunity that will benefit our future communities. The focus is on the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem. It encompasses various sectors including marine transport, fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energy, tourism, and more. Our visits to the Australian Marine Complex and Rottneest Island will highlight some of the amazing opportunities we have on our doorstep.

So while you are here, we invite you to discover our City. We're a place of diverse lifestyles and experiences — with everything from pristine beaches and wetlands to theme parks and world-class recreation facilities, including the iconic Rottneest Island. Rottneest is a special destination for visitors near and far, a protected nature reserve and home, of course, to the famous quokka.

Congratulations to the team at NGAA, as always, for putting together such a thought-provoking and enjoyable program.

Mayor Logan K. Howlett JP
City of Cockburn



ABOUT COCKBURN

Welcome to the City of Cockburn. We're a vibrant community situated 20 minutes south of Perth, on Whadjuk Nyungar Boodjar.

Our city is well connected, nestled between the coast and Jandakot Airport, and easily accessible by major road and rail infrastructure.

Home to 125,000 residents and 9,000 businesses, Cockburn boasts five of Western Australia's most successful industrial hubs. We are a centre of innovation, a significant contributor to the state's economic output, and offer an unparalleled lifestyle.

From pristine beaches and award-winning recreation facilities to peaceful wetlands and rich cultural experiences, there's something here for everyone. At the heart of it all is Cockburn Central, one of the fastest-growing areas in the southern corridor, featuring Cockburn ARC, Fremantle Football Club, and Cockburn Gateway Shopping City.

Whether you're relaxing at Coogee Beach, exploring the Beeliiar wetlands, discovering the Omeo shipwreck, or enjoying fun family adventures, you'll find that Cockburn is a place where you really can have it all. Welcome to the best place to be.





Mayor of City of Gosnells



I am pleased to welcome the National Growth Areas Alliance 2025 National Congress – the Futures of Growth Areas – to the Cities of Gosnells and Cockburn.

The 2025 National Congress offers a valuable platform for leaders across all levels of government to come together to explore the shared challenges and opportunities facing our fast-growing communities.

At the City of Gosnells, our focus is on making great places. For us, this means ensuring our rapidly-expanding population is supported by high-quality infrastructure, accessible community services and strong economic opportunities – all while protecting our unique environmental assets and advancing long-term sustainability.

Over the past year, we've made significant strides in supporting our younger residents, with the completion of a \$6.7 million Youth Entertainment Space in Southern River. This, along with a nearby all-abilities playground, marks the beginning of works under the Sutherlands Park Master Plan – a bold vision to transform a 67-hectare reserve into a premier sport and recreation destination for the entire community.

Just nearby, the City's first commercial subdivision, the Southern River Business Park, is taking shape. Once completed, it will deliver lasting employment and business opportunities while helping fund future community infrastructure.

Thank you to the NGAA team for curating such an engaging and solutions-focused Congress. I look forward to meeting you in person and sharing more about the exciting projects shaping the future of the City of Gosnells.

Mayor Teresa Lynes
City of Gosnells



ABOUT GOSNELLS

The City of Gosnells is dedicated to providing quality services, programs and facilities to meet the needs of our growing community and is a leader in sustainability practices and energy-efficient design. The City is also a member of a small consortium of local governments in Western Australia who committed their non-recyclable waste to support Australia's first waste to energy plant, the Kwinana Energy Recovery facility.

With convenient access to Perth Airport and key transport links including Tonkin, Roe and Albany Highways, the City takes a strategic approach to planning for the benefit of local business, industry and residents.

The local community enjoys an outstanding range of services, programs and events catering for families, seniors, and young people. The City's landmark annual event, the Fusion Food and Culture Festival, which attracted 40,000 people over two nights last November, recently won a National Award for Local Government.

As our community continues to expand and we look to the future, the City of Gosnells remains committed to making great places.





MESSAGE

FROM THE CEO



This year's Congress is all about the future; of our economy, our communities, and our councils. As Australia's outer metropolitan areas continue to grow at pace, the choices we make now will shape what's possible for the next generation.

We've designed this Congress to explore bold ideas and practical solutions that will define the future economy - where innovation and investment meet local opportunity. We'll consider what future-ready communities look like; connected, inclusive, and resilient. And we'll reflect on the future of local government - what it will take to lead and deliver through complexity and change.

Thank you to our hosts, the City of Cockburn and City of Gosnells, for welcoming us to Western Australia. Thank you to our sponsors and partners for your support. And most of all, thank you to each of you, our members and collaborators, for your shared commitment to growth areas.

Let's look ahead, together.

Bronwen Clark
Chief Executive Officer



ABOUT THE NGAA

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) is the peak body representing local governments in Australia's fast-growing outer metropolitan cities and suburbs. Our 21 member councils are home to over 5.8 million people and are growing at twice the national average yet continue to face chronic underinvestment in essential infrastructure. NGAA advocates to State and Federal governments for fairer policies and funding, using an evidence-based approach grounded in research and the lived experience of our members. We also support councils through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building to help deliver thriving, resilient communities.

NGAA Members:

- Blacktown City
- Camden Council
- Campbelltown City
- Penrith City
- Wollondilly Shire
- Shire of Cardinia
- City of Casey
- City of Hume
- City of Melton
- Shire of Mitchell
- City of Whittlesea
- City of Wyndham
- District Council of Mount Barker
- City of Playford
- City of Armadale
- City of Cockburn
- City of Gosnells
- City of Kwinana
- Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
- City of Swan
- City of Wanneroo

NGAA Associate Member:

- Rural City of Murray Bridge



PERTH GROWTH AREA

Site Tour

Wednesday, 30 July | Perth Growth Area Site Tour

8:30am

Bus departs Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges

Group 1

Kwinana Energy Recovery Centre

Australia's first large-scale facility of its kind, the Kwinana Energy Recovery Centre transforms non-recyclable waste into renewable baseload power. Using world-class technology, it processes up to 460,000 tonnes of waste each year—diverting it from landfill, cutting emissions equivalent to removing 85,000 cars from Perth's roads, and generating enough electricity to power 55,000 homes.

Tour will include:

- A presentation from facility operators on how the plant works
- A guided tour of the education centre and viewing platform
- Q&A with local government representatives

This visit offers valuable insights into how innovative infrastructure can address waste challenges and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Group 2

Australian Marine Complex (AMC)

The Australian Marine Complex (AMC) is Western Australia's leading shipbuilding and sustainment industrial precinct. As one of only two naval shipbuilding precincts in Australia, the AMC plays a critical role in supporting the marine, defence, energy, and resource industries. Located just 23 kilometres south of Perth in the state's leading industrial corridor, the complex drives significant economic development and employment.

Tour will include:

- Presentation, Q&A and tour of the Common User Facility (CUF)
- Guided tour of Austal Shipyard, the centre of WA's defence sector, with Cape Class Patrol vessels under construction
- Insights into defence industry growth, strategic planning, and local economic impact

This visit will highlight how the AMC is shaping Australia's sovereign capability and supporting future-focused industry development.

12:00pm

Lunch & Keynote Address at Jakovich Centre

Over lunch, attendees will hear a keynote address from Linda Dawson, Deputy Director General of Industry Science Innovation from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. Linda will provide an in-depth perspective on the Australian Marine Complex and its critical role in advancing the nation's defence and advanced manufacturing capability. Her address will explore the strategic significance of the AMC, the opportunities it presents for local industry and workforce development, and how growth area councils can plan effectively to support and benefit from this transformative precinct.

Group 1

Australian Marine Complex

Group 2

Kwinana Energy Recovery Centre



CONGRESS

Program



Thursday, 31 July | National Congress

8:00am **Bus departs Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges**

9:00am **Welcome to Country at Mary Carroll Wetlands**

9:45am **Visit Youth Entertainment Space (YES), Sutherland Park**

10:00am **MORNING TEA**

10:30am **MC opening**
Bronwen Clark, *CEO, NGAA*

Welcome

- Mayor Teresa Lynes, *Mayor City of Gosnells*
- Mayor Logan Howlett, *Mayor City of Cockburn*

Session 1: Future Economy – Made in Australia, Built in the Growth Areas

This forward-looking session will begin with an economic overview from Cassandra Winzar, Chief Economist at the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA). Her dual macro- and microeconomic analysis will explore the intersection between global economic volatility and Australia's domestic agenda, including productivity pressures, the manufacturing resurgence under the Future Made in Australia Act, and the implications of the Housing Accord.

Following on from Cassandra, Nick Byrne, Director and Principal Consultant at REMPLAN, will draw on the latest data to outline the opportunities and challenges emerging from residential development targets and population forecasts across Australia's growth areas.

The session will conclude with a high-level panel discussion featuring Col Dutton, UDIA National President and General Manager of Greenfield Development at Stockland, alongside other leading national experts. Together, they will examine how growth areas can position themselves as engines of economic productivity, innovation, and sustainable development into the future.

10:45am **Keynote – Setting the Economic Context**
Cassandra Winzar, *Chief Economist, CEDA*

11:15am **Australia's Growth Areas**
Nick Bryne, *Director, REMPLAN*

11:45am **Unlocking the Economic Potential of Growth Areas - Panel Discussion**

- Cassandra Winzar, *Chief Economist, CEDA*
- Col Dutton, *UDIA National President and General Manager Stocklands*
- Nick Byrne, *Director, REMPLAN*

CONGRESS

Program

Thursday, 31 July | National Congress

12:30pm

LUNCH

Session 2: Future Councils: Delivering for Growth through Collaboration and Advocacy

In an era of shifting political priorities and accelerating population growth, the strategic capacity of councils has never been more critical. This session brings together leading voices in political engagement, data analytics, and long-term planning to guide councils in navigating the complexity of future governance.

Justine Conely and Patrick Fagan from GRA Partners will provide an insider's view of the evolving political environment. Novoplan will bring us a GM fireside chat, pulling back the curtains on the challenges and opportunities facing senior leaders in government. What is needed to take organisations to the next level and adapt to an uncertain future.

This session will equip councils with the strategic foresight and technical tools to lead confidently into the next decade.

1:30pm

Finding your sweet spot: Delivering a strategic narrative for growth

- Patrick Fagan, *Partner, GRA*
- Justine Conely, *Strategy Director, GRA Partners*

2:00pm

The Performance Edge: Strategy, Collaboration and Delivery in Growth Councils

Presented by Novoplan

- Damon Elhers, *CEO Novoplan*
- Mayor Todd Carney, *Mayor Penrith City Council*
- Andrew Moore, *General Manager Penrith City Council*

2:30pm

AFTERNOON TEA

Session 3: Future Communities: Designing for Belonging, Health and Opportunity

With one in four Australian children growing up in a growth area, the experience of suburban childhood is both defining and under-researched. In this session, NGAA's valued research partnership with the Australian Research Council's Lifecourse Centre will take centre stage, revealing new findings on how children and families experience life in outer suburban Perth.

The built environment influences child and family health. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that "Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account". But are we listening to their needs?

In this session, Professor Haley Christian AM will present research that incorporates the voices of parents and children, which provides new insights and policy direction. Neighbourhood features such as public transport, traffic exposure, street connectivity, yard size, the presence of quality green play spaces, playgroups, health services, early childhood education and care, and kindergartens all affect children's health and development. How might surprise you.

Following a deep dive of the latest research, join the Q&A, featuring Dr Kelsee Prabawa-Sear, CEO of Nature Play WA, and Ainslee Sartori, Food and Movement Programs Manager of Cancer Council WA.

CONGRESS

Program

Thursday, 31 July | National Congress

3:00pm **Keynote** Professor Hayley Christian AM, *The Kids Research Institute*

Q&A

- 3:30pm**
- Professor Hayley Christian AM, *The Kids Research Institute*
 - Kiralee Paine, Research Assistant, *The Kids Research Institute*
 - Grace Stanton, Public Health, *Strategic Partnerships & Community Development*
 - Dr Kelsee Prabawa-Sear, *CEO of Nature Play WA*
 - Ainslee Sartori, *Food and Movement Programs Manager of Cancer Council WA*

4:00pm **Closing remarks** Bronwen Clark, *CEO, NGAA*

4:30pm **Event concludes**
Bus returns attendees to the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges.



CONGRESS

Networking Opportunities

Tuesday, 29 July | Welcome Drinks

5:00pm

Join us for an informal evening of connection and conversation at the NGAA Congress 2025 Welcome Drinks. Reconnect with colleagues and meet new faces from across Australia's growth areas before the program officially begins. A relaxed start to an inspiring few days ahead.

Little Creatures Brewery, Fremantle

Wednesday, 30 July | Sunset Dinner & Drinks

4:00pm

After the Growth Area Site Tour, join fellow NGAA members for an evening of networking at the Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club. Unwind with a relaxed, informal BBQ dinner and drinks as the sun sets over the stunning backdrop of Coogee Beach.

Coogee Beach SLSC

Friday, 1 August | Rottnest Island Day Excursion

8:30am

Bus departs Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges

9:00am

Ferry to Rottnest Island

10:30am

Tour of Rottnest by the Rottnest Island Authority

Including a visit to the desalination plant, power station, wastewater treatment plant and nursery.

12:30pm

LUNCH

1:30pm

Free time

Explore key sites such as The Basin, Wadjemup Lighthouse, or the Quokka habitat.

2:30pm

Ferry departure #1

4:00pm

Ferry departure #2

Upon return to Fremantle via ferry, attendees are kindly asked to make their own way from the terminal.



SPEAKERS



Linda Dawson

Head of the Office of Defence Industries

Linda Dawson is a senior executive with more than 25 years' experience working in large Australian and multinational organisations across the resources and utilities sectors; in the operations, corporate and community development areas. Linda currently holds the position of Head of the Office of Defence Industries in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, having previously held the position of Deputy Director General Industry Science Innovation in the WA Government. She has a strong belief in equality and respect for all in society, learning from our First Nations people, empowering women and giving back to the community.

Linda is currently a Board Member of Workpower, and an Advisory Board Member of both the University of Western Australia Defence Security Institute and the Curtin University School of Business and Law.

Linda holds a Masters of Education and Bachelor of Physical Education from the University of Western Australia, is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Certified Professional of the Australian Human Resource Institute and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.



Cassandra Winzar

Chief Economist, CEDA

Cassandra Winzar has been CEDA's Chief Economist since 2023, after joining CEDA as a Senior Economist in 2020. Cassandra leads CEDA's research and policy work across areas including productivity, the energy transition, migration and disadvantage. Previously as Senior Economist Cassandra authored reports in Aged Care, Disadvantage and Mental Health. Prior to joining CEDA, Cassandra was Principal Economist at the WA Department of Communities (Housing Authority). Cassandra has also held roles as the WA based Economist for the Reserve Bank of Australia, and in Transfer Pricing at EY. Cassandra is on the committee of the WA Women in Economics Network and was the past Chair. She has a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) and Bachelor of Asian Studies from the University of Western Australia.

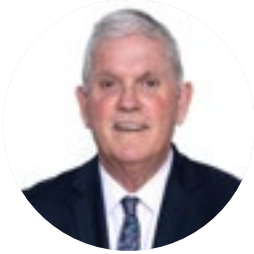


Prof. Hayley Christian AM

The Kids Research Institute

Professor Hayley Christian AM is a distinguished researcher in child health at The Kids Research Institute Australia, The University of Western Australia. Hayley leads a multidisciplinary team to improve children's active play, health and development through impactful interventions spanning the child, family, social, built and natural environment. This includes evidence-informed policy and strategies to increase active play opportunities to support young children develop healthy behaviours and lifelong health and wellbeing. Hayley collaborates with multi-sector partner organisations nationally and internationally to promote children's physical activity and health. Her contributions extend globally, with her 'Play Active' policy being adopted by the World Health Organization.

SPEAKERS



Mayor Logan Howlett

Mayor, City of Cockburn

Mayor Logan Howlett has been a dedicated leader of the City of Cockburn for more than 15 years, having been popularly elected in 2009 and re-elected in every local government election since. A long-time resident and passionate advocate for his community, Logan brings a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities that come with managing growth in one of Western Australia's most dynamic local government areas.

With more than 50 years of service and volunteering in Cockburn alongside his wife Pat, Logan is a steadfast believer in the power of local engagement and community-led development. His leadership reflects values of trust, respect, integrity, and inclusiveness, principles that guide his approach to delivering for a diverse and growing population.

As a leader who lives and breathes his community, Logan offers unique insights into the role of local government in shaping resilient, connected, and liveable cities, making him a valued contributor to NGAA's national conversation on the future of growth areas.



Mayor Teresa Lynes

Mayor, City of Gosnells

Mayor Teresa Lynes has been a dedicated resident of the City of Gosnells for over 30 years, raising her family within the community she now serves. Elected as Mayor in 2021 and re-elected in 2023, she is committed to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable city.

Her leadership emphasises community engagement, environmental enhancement, and responsible financial management.

Beyond her mayoral duties, Teresa serves as the Interim Chair of the National Growth Areas Alliance, is a Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) State Councillor, Board Member of the Thornlie Senior High School Board, and Board Member of the Gosnells Community Legal Centre.



Mayor Todd Carney

Mayor, Penrith City Council

Cr Todd Carney is serving his second term as Mayor of Penrith after being elected to Council in 2016. He serves on the Strategic Advisory Committee of the National Growth Areas Alliance.

Cr Carney is particularly focused on realising the full potential for Penrith and Western Sydney – a region with one of the fastest growing populations and economies in Australia.

He is also current Chair of The Parks, an alliance of Western Sydney councils that have partnered with the Australian and NSW Governments to deliver for the region.

SPEAKERS



Nick Byrne

Director, Advisory, REMPLAN

Nick Byrne is the Director, Advisory at REMPLAN. A national leader of economic and planning insights, REMPLAN offer a unique combination of specialist advisory services and industry-leading software tools.

Nick commonly works with councils and government agencies to understand housing demand, develop business cases, and prepare economic focussed strategy, ensuring planning decisions are both practical and future focused.

Nick is recognised for his ability to translate complex data, policies, and competing priorities into clear strategies and actionable steps. He is a 'glass half full planner' whose work bridges technical analysis and real-world outcomes. He loves to work with planners and policymakers to move from broad themes to targeted actions that deliver meaningful results for communities.



Justine Conely

Strategy Director, GRA Partners

Justine brings over 15 years of experience as a brand, marketing and business strategist both in Australia and the UK. She has held senior marketing roles at Harvest Road, Crown Resorts, Bankwest, Visa Europe and RACWA. As someone who has been a client too, Justine understands the power and importance of clarity and alignment across all levels of an organisation.

A natural collaborator, she relishes working through a business challenge, unlocking insights through data and delivering a strategic, practical and Board-ready solution that can unlock a brand's potential.

Justine has an unwavering focus on the customer. Understanding what's important to a brand's customers, employees and community is key to a great experience.



Ian Cowie

CEO, City of Gosnells

Ian Cowie is CEO of the City of Gosnells, one of WA's largest and fastest-growing local governments. With more than 25 years of public sector experience, including over seven years leading the City and 18 years in State Government roles spanning regional development, housing, and local government policy, Ian brings a unique, cross-government perspective to managing urban growth.

Ian holds an Honours degree in Geography from the University of Western Australia and a Master of Science in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. His leadership has been recognised with the Public Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours (2014) and the IPAA WA Leader of the Year in Local Government (2013).

Ian's deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing outer metropolitan councils makes him a valuable voice in discussions around planning, infrastructure, and intergovernmental collaboration—core themes of NGAA's advocacy.

SPEAKERS



Col Dutton

UDIA National President

With over two decades of experience in the property industry, Col Dutton brings deep insight into the delivery of housing and infrastructure in Australia's fastest-growing communities. As General Manager of Stockland WA, Australia's largest residential developer, Col oversees a team of more than 60 delivering a pipeline of over 12,000 affordable homes across Perth's growth corridors. His leadership is also driving innovative approaches to mixed-use town centres and medium-density development in both greenfield and infill locations.

His expertise and leadership make him a valuable contributor to the conversation on delivering livable, connected, and affordable communities in Australia's outer metropolitan growth areas.



Damon Ehlers

CEO, Novoplan

Damon is the co-founder and CEO of Novoplan, the provider of the market leading infrastructure contribution system for local governments across the country. He is a highly experienced infrastructure planning professional and a passionate advocate for the role that an efficiently functioning local government infrastructure delivery framework plays in the supply of housing and economic growth of our cities and regions.



Patrick Fagan

Partner, GRA Partners

Patrick Fagan brings a wealth of political and strategic expertise to his role as Director at GRA Partners, shaped by his time as a Senior Adviser in the Gillard and Rudd Federal Labor Governments. With first-hand experience navigating the complexities of federal policy across key portfolios, including energy, resources, ICT, and regional development, Patrick offers valuable insights into how government decisions are shaped and influenced.

His background includes advisory roles to the Minister for Resources and Energy and work with the Kimberley Development Commission on regional enhancement initiatives. Patrick has also advised global mining company South32 on government relations and is a founding member of Timor Leste Vision, a not-for-profit promoting rural education in Southeast Asia.

Patrick holds a Master of Community Development, an MBA, and a Bachelor of Arts in political science and history, bringing both academic depth and practical policy experience.

SPEAKERS



Andrew Moore

General Manager, Penrith City Council

Andrew Moore was appointed to the position of General Manager at Penrith City Council in 2023 after more than 20 years with the organisation.

Beginning his career in the finance department, Andrew quickly climbed Council's leadership ranks and has been a member of its senior leadership team since 2016 when he was appointed Director Corporate Services.

Andrew's qualifications include a Masters of Professional Accounting and Bachelor of Commerce (Economics and Finance). He is also a Certified Practising Accountant.



Kiralee Paine

Research Assistant, The Kids Research Institute

Kiralee is a Research Assistant in the PLAYCE (Play Spaces and Environments for Children's Physical Activity, Health & Development) team at The Kids Research Institute, Australia, working under Dr Hayley Christian. Her work focuses on how built environments influence child health and development, with a particular interest in children experiencing hardship. She contributes to research exploring how urban planning, greenspace, and neighbourhood design shape children's opportunities for healthy development. Kiralee is also undertaking a multidisciplinary Master's degree in sociology and psychology. She has a strong interest in child-centred participatory research methods and qualitative research.



Dr Kelsie Prabawa-Sear

CEO of Nature Play WA and Nature Play Australia

Dr Kelsie Prabawa-Sear is the CEO of Nature Play WA and Nature Play Australia, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the mental and physical health of Western Australian children by growing their connection to nature and community through outdoor play.

Kelsie has had a varied and rich working and academic experience in both Australia and Indonesia prior to joining Nature Play WA, having worked in State government, consulting, and not-for-profit organisations, all with a focus on children, education, and environment. Kelsie has entwined her work with post graduate research degrees, completing a Masters by Research degree and PhD on environmental education.

Kelsie is a published author, parent, and advocate of the benefits of nature for children.

SPEAKERS



Sarah Quinton

Journalist

Sarah is an award-winning journalist turned community campaigner, who for the past 20 years, has worked across politics for government Ministers and Senators, not for profits, a union, peak bodies and did a stint as a councillor at the Town of Bassendean.

Sarah has a deep sense of social justice and has worked on political campaigns including public education, Play for children in schools, housing and homelessness, suicide prevention and mental health.

Sarah now runs the Valuing Children Initiative where she manages the End Child Poverty campaign and has developed a program that values the rights of children in decision making through child centred workshops.

Sarah's most rewarding job is being mum to a 10-year-old human with ADHD, who teaches her to truly value children to be their best selves.



Ainslie Sartori

Food and Movement Programs Manager, Cancer Council WA

Ainslie has a background in law and nutrition, and employs both skills in her role, looking at regulatory measures and policy action that can be adopted to increase healthy eating. She particularly enjoys exposing industry tactics. Ainslie has spent the last few years identifying and commissioning research and getting this rapidly translated to inform advocacy activities in the hope of achieving policy action at all levels of government.



Daniel Simms

CEO, City of Cockburn

Daniel Simms is the CEO of the City of Cockburn, one of WA's most dynamic and fast-growing local governments. With over two decades of leadership experience in local government, including a 14-year tenure as CEO of the City of Wanneroo, Daniel brings a wealth of knowledge in urban planning, governance, and strategic development.

His expertise spans key areas such as planning and development, finance, administration, and strategic planning. Daniel has a keen interest in advocacy and economic development, aligning with the City of Cockburn's focus on sustainable growth and community engagement.

As Chair of the Growth Alliance Perth and Peel Policy Forum and an Executive Member of the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA), Daniel plays a pivotal role in shaping policies that address the challenges and opportunities of Australia's outer metropolitan growth areas.

SPEAKERS



Grace Stanton

Public Health, Strategic Partnerships & Community Development

Grace holds a Double Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion and Nutrition from Curtin University and is completing a Master of Public Health at UWA with research focusing on community-level factors that improve the developmental outcomes of children from disadvantaged communities across Australia. For the past seven years, Grace has led strategic health promotion initiatives across WA. Through her work at Healthway, Grace developed a systems approach to build capacity and provide equitable access to mental health and wellbeing support across the sport sector. Grace currently works at the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, furthering her commitment to supporting community health and wellbeing through developing collaborative, equity-driven programs.

Thank you...

To all our speakers—thank you for sharing your time, insights and expertise. Your contributions are the heart of this Congress.

SAVE THE DATE



2025 NGAA AWARDS CEREMONY

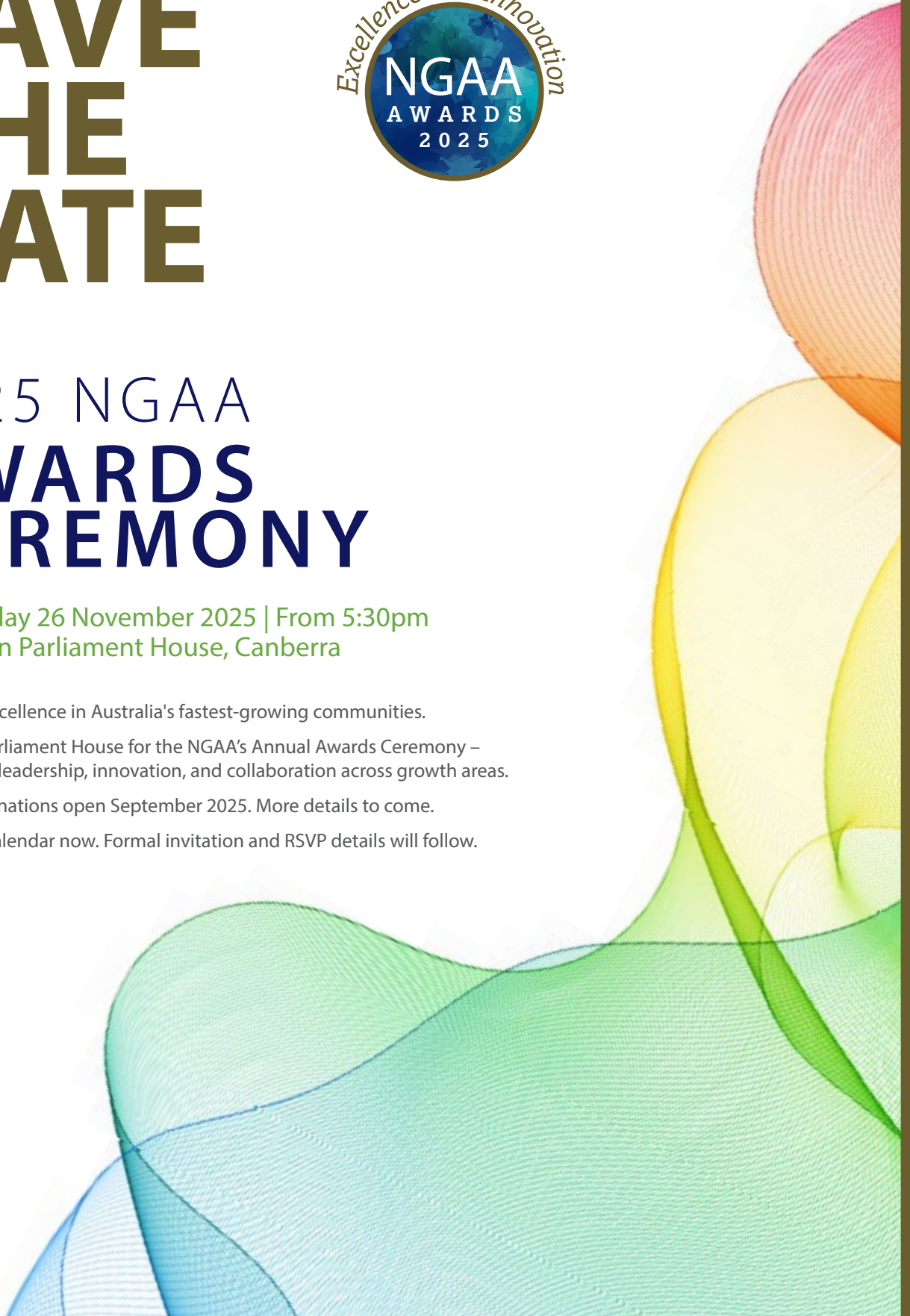
Wednesday 26 November 2025 | From 5:30pm
Australian Parliament House, Canberra

Celebrate excellence in Australia's fastest-growing communities.

Join us at Parliament House for the NGAA's Annual Awards Ceremony – recognising leadership, innovation, and collaboration across growth areas.

Award nominations open September 2025. More details to come.

Mark your calendar now. Formal invitation and RSVP details will follow.





NATIONAL
Growth Areas
ALLIANCE

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-growth-areas-alliance-ngaa>

www.ngaa.org.au

Please note that all speakers, presentations and activities were correct at the time of printing, but may be subject to change without notice.