

SESSION THREE.

ENABLING THE ADVANTAGE – NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION AND POLICY REFORM

PROGRAM
PARTNER

RPM²

 TERRALYTICS

MAYOR GLENN DOCHERTY

MAYOR, CITY OF PLAYFORD

NGAA STRATEGIC
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER



Putting Growth Areas on the Map

Emma Baker



National Growth Areas Alliance 6th August 2026

A map of Australia is shown in the background, with several regions highlighted in a light purple color, representing the National Growth Areas (NGAs).

NGA25: a national, evidence-based classification of Australia's growth areas

New National Growth Areas

Discussion Paper for Consultation: November 2025

Kira Page and Emma Baker



Australian Centre
for Housing Research

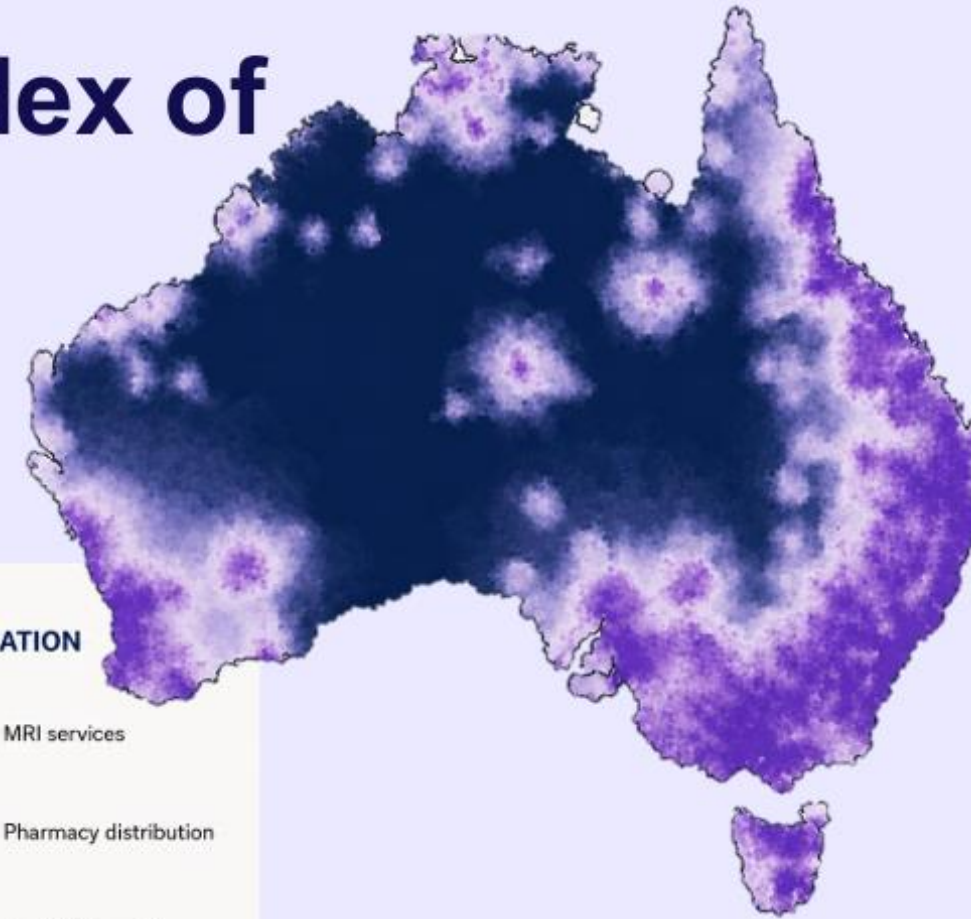


A 20,626 km² policy blind spot?

- Growth areas are visible locally—but blurred nationally
- The geography we use determines what we can see
- Existing geographies serve many purposes, but none identify Australia's fast-growing outer metropolitan areas.

A transparent method creates a shared national geography

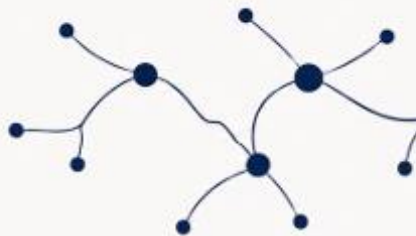
Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+)



TRANSPARENT METHOD

ARIA+

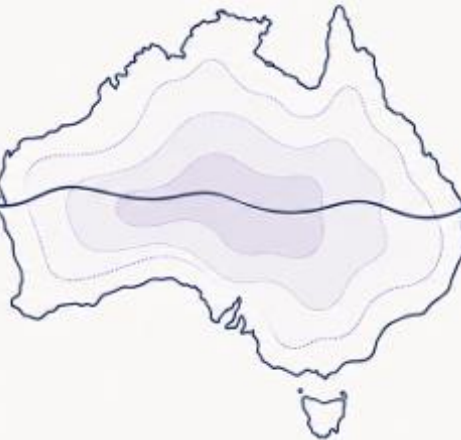
Road access to service centres
Consistent and repeatable



RECOGNISED GEOGRAPHY

ABS Remoteness Areas

A shared national definition



POLICY APPLICATION



MRI services



Pharmacy distribution



Rural GP incentives



University regional campus funding



Other applications ...

A common geography can support many different policy responses.

Recognition is the first step

- NGAA call for outer metropolitan growth areas to be recognised as nationally significant regions
- NGA25 turns that principle into a classification that can be consistently applied.

What we set out to build

- Nationally consistent
- Transparent and repeatable
- Based on robust data
- Current and updateable
- Available at the LGA scale
- Applicable beyond current membership

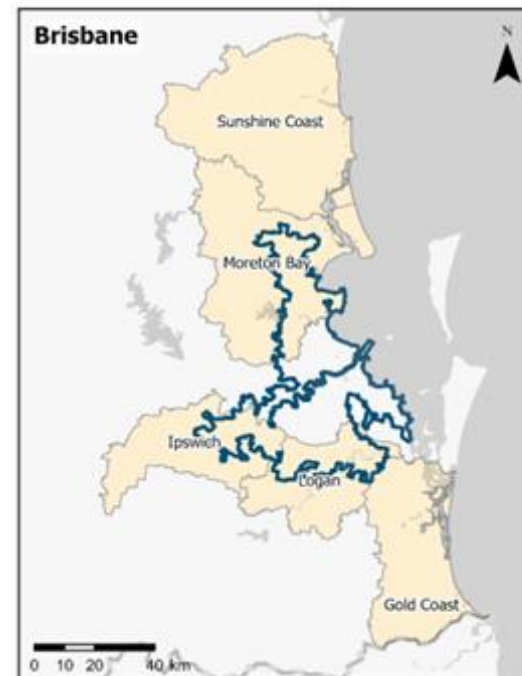
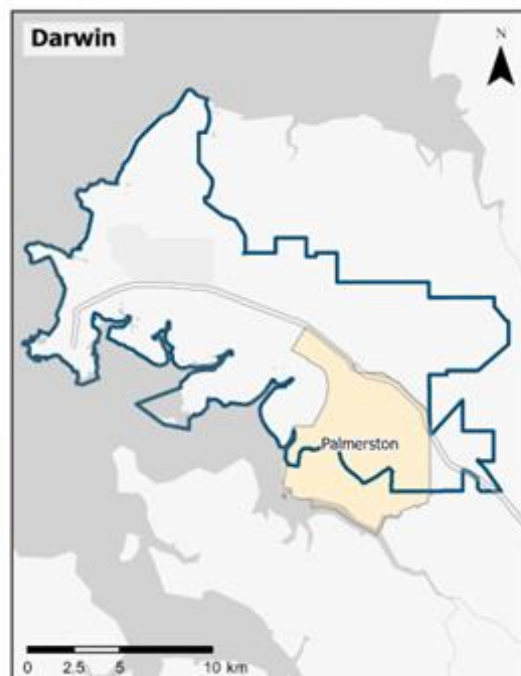
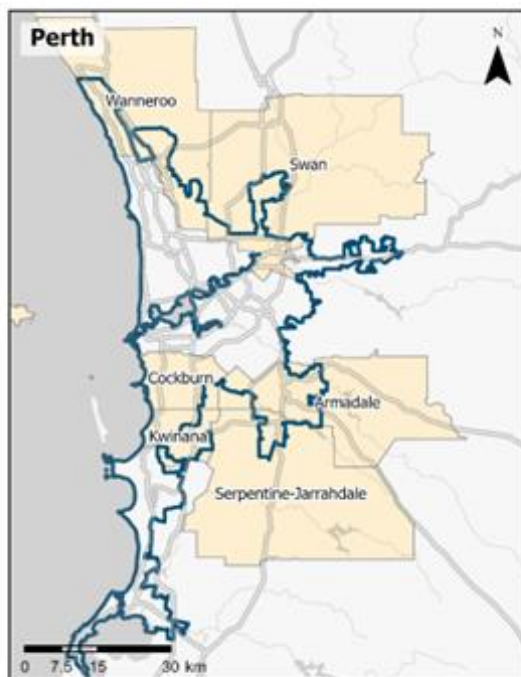
A classification that can be understood, reproduced and updated as growth changes.

How NGA25 works





● current ○ not current				HOUSING GROWTH			
CURRENT NGA? Context only	AREA	URBAN LOCATION Within 10 km of UCL	POPULATION GROWTH At least 10%	OR		NGA25	
				Dwellings at least 10%	Separate houses at least 15.6%		
●		✓	✓	✓	×	✓	
●		✓	✓	×	✓	✓	
●		✓	×	×	×	×	
○		✓	✓	✓	×	✓	★ NEW
○		✓	✓	×	✓	✓	★ NEW
○		✓	✓	×	×	×	



NGA25 Local Government Areas by Capital City

- Capital City UCL Boundary (2021)
- Proposed NGA25 LGA

Map produced by: Kira Page, Australian Centre for Housing Research, 2025.

Data sources: Australian Centre for Housing Research (2025); Australian Bureau of Statistics (ASGS Edition 3, Local Government Areas, 2021); ABS Census Usual Resident Population (2021); ABS Census Dwelling Structure (2021); Esri Human Geography Basemap, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, and others (2025).

READY FOR THE NEXT NATIONAL SNAPSHOT OF GROWTH



TEST & REFINE NOW



NEW CENSUS SNAPSHOT



APPLY NGA25

Refine the method now—so growth areas are **visible** when the next Census data are released.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

MATTHEW NICHOL
DIRECTOR – PRINCIPAL ECONOMIST
REMPPLAN



National Congress 2026

August 2026

01 Growth Area Insights

02 Evidence-driven decisions

03 Supporting Outcomes

Helping local governments build thriving communities



At REMPLAN

Local government is our focus. Our job is to help councils deliver outcomes for their communities.

We place analytical tools and region-specific insights into the hands of people shaping our communities.

We do this to provide the people shaping our communities with the data and insights to deliver transparent, reasoned, and evidence-based policies and actions.

Business cases

Economic impacts

Housing strategy

Tourism

Residential supply

Forecasts



NGAA Region Explorers

IN THIS CHAPTER

Online resources

Public-access

Housing • Community • Economy



Monitoring the performance of Australia's Growth Areas

www.ngaa.org.au/about-growth-areas



HOUSING

**Affordability and
Housing Stress**



Scan to access the Housing Profile



COMMUNITY

**Unique demographics
of your communities**



Scan to access the Community Profile



ECONOMY

**People and industries driving
your economy**

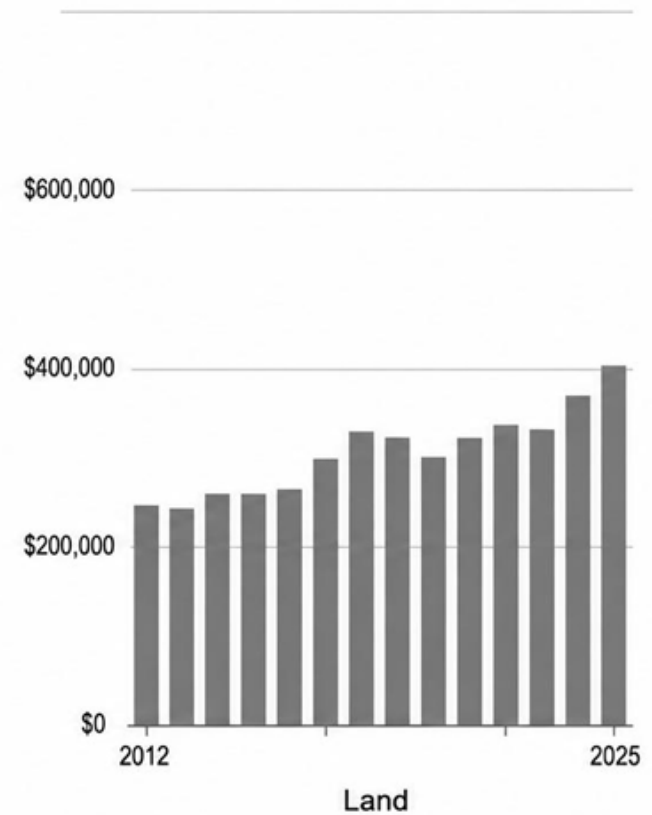
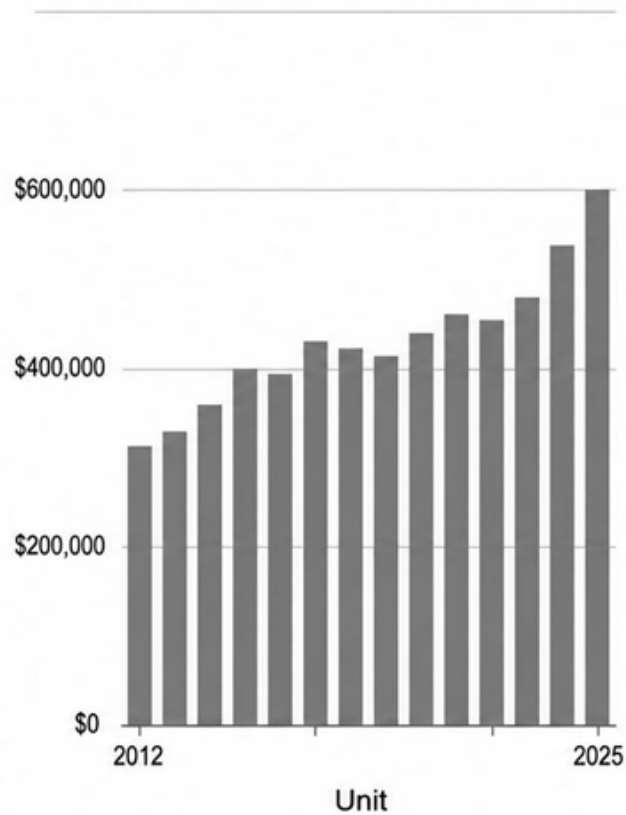
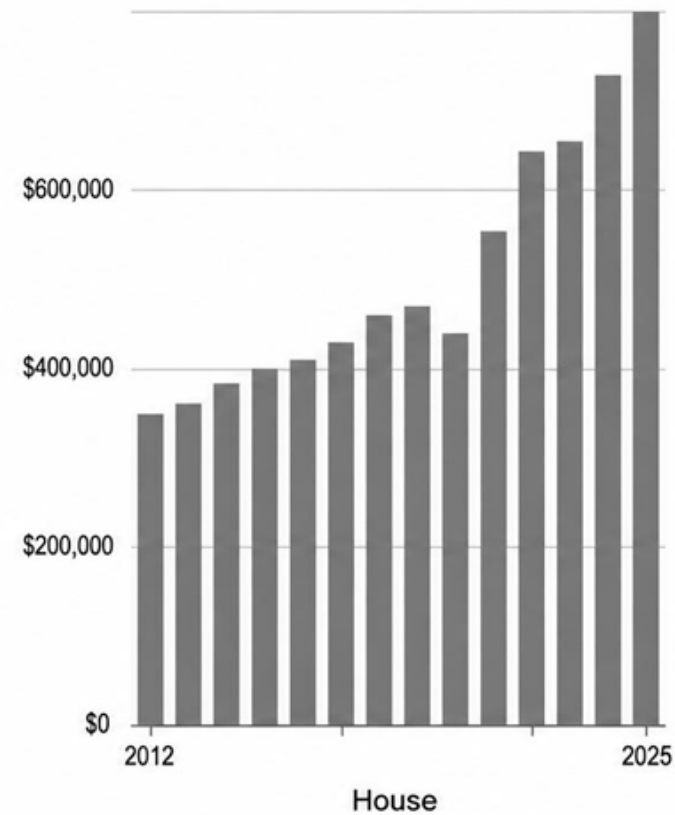


Scan to access the Economy Profile

Affordable: 6% of dwellings sold

app.remplan.com.au/ngaa/housing

Sales Trends: Median Price

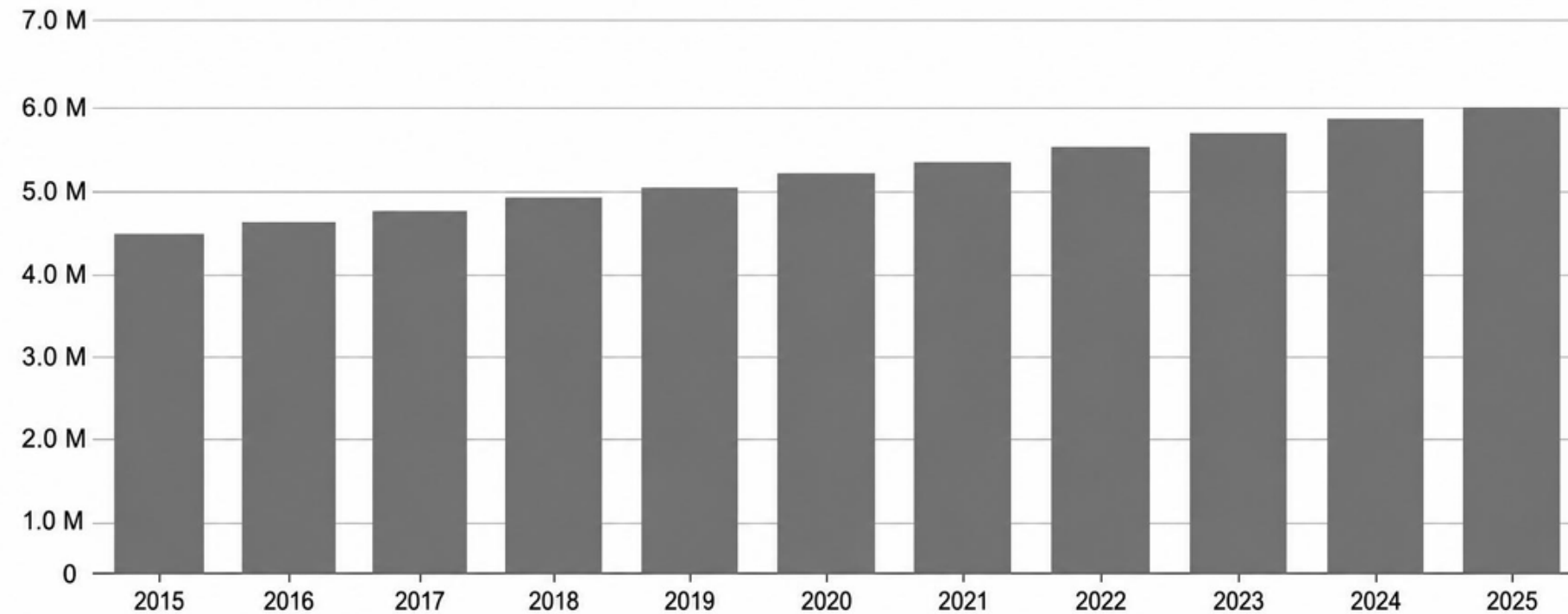


Population increased by 1,558,741 people, growth rate of 3.0%

app.remplan.com.au/ngaa/community

Australia's Growth Areas

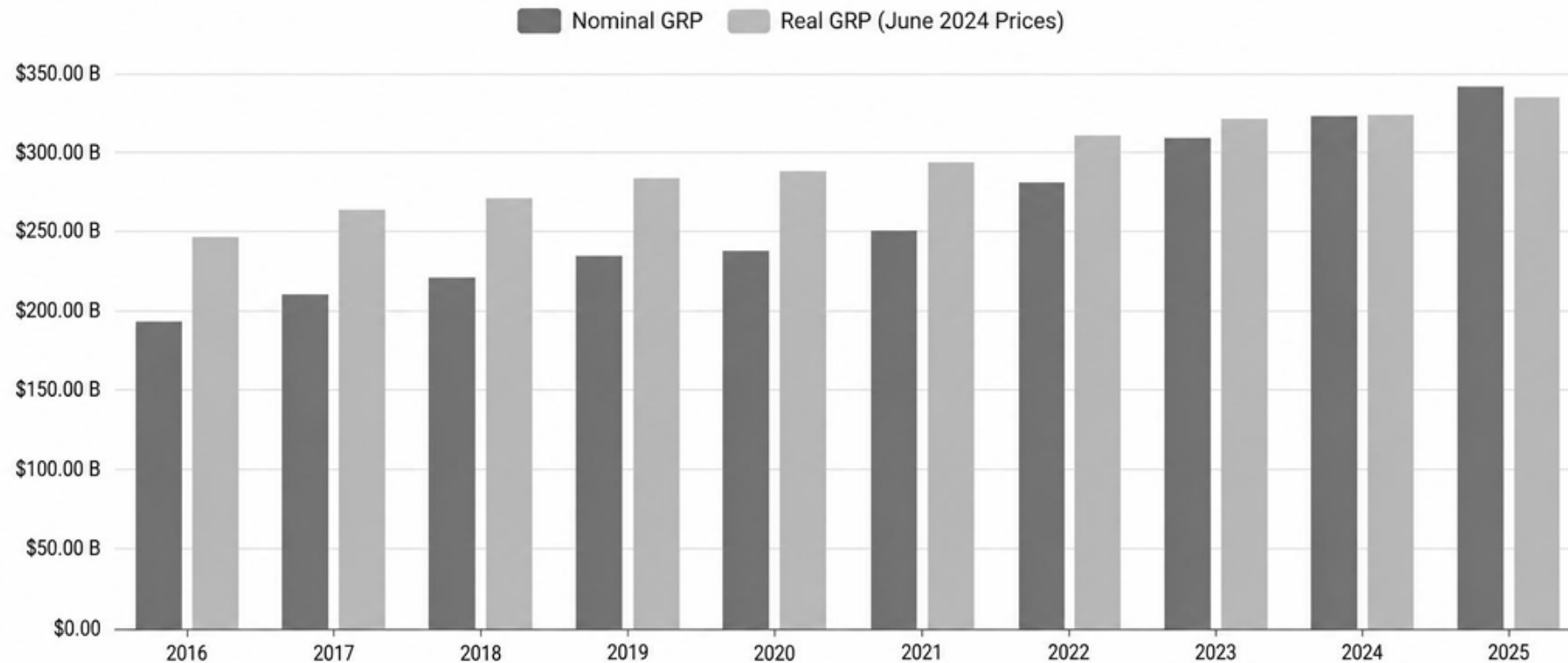
Population



GRP: \$342 Billion, growth rate of 3.4%

app.remplan.com.au/ngaa/economy

Australia's Growth Areas



Options: All Selected

Insights Reports



COMMUNITY NEED

Accessible insights, not just data



USER BEHAVIOUR

Speed and simplicity are fundamental



OUR PURPOSE

Helping local governments build thriving communities

It's the focus for every product we build, every service we offer, and every decision we make about where to invest our time and resources.

OUR PURPOSE

Building a thriving community



Community connection & inclusion

Whether people feel they belong, can participate, and are included in community life.



Health, safety & support

The wellbeing and protection of people: reducing harm, improving safety, connecting people to support.



Housing & liveability

Whether people can live locally and affordably, and the quality of the housing system and residential experience.



Economy & jobs

Jobs, business, investment, investment, innovation, visitation, and the resilience resilience of the local economy.



Infrastructure, place & environment

The assets, public realm, mobility and natural systems councils build, maintain and steward.

Census 2026

Less than one week until Census night!

Source of competitive advantage for Australia. ABS count tally.

State/Territory	Household forms received
 New South Wales	406,141
 Victoria	359,903
 Queensland	213,496
 South Australia	73,806
 Western Australia	122,250
 Tasmania	24,396
 Northern Territory	5,853
 Australian Capital Territory	24,035
Total**	1,231,712



Thank you!



Scan to book a time
to chat about REMPLAN

Matthew Nichol – Principal Economist REMPLAN

SENATOR JAMES MCGRATH

SHADOW MINISTER FOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE