



**DR RICHARD DI NATALE**

**Leader of the Australian Greens**

Senator for Victoria

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Mayor Glenn Docherty  
Chair, National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA)  
Locked Bag 1  
Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

20 June 2016

Dear Mr Docherty,

Thank you for your letter of 2 June regarding infrastructure provision for outer suburban areas in Australia.

The Greens recognise the need for investment in infrastructure and services for our outer urban communities. We know that populations have exploded in the outer suburbs over the last decade, but there has been nowhere near the same growth in essential services for the residents of these suburbs.

I understand that Senator Scott Ludlam as our spokesperson for Sustainable Cities and Senator Janet Rice as spokesperson for Transport & Infrastructure have engaged with the NGAA's campaigns over many years and in particular have publicly echoed support for the issues highlighted in the *Fund Our Future* campaign currently underway.

We recognise the strong need for infrastructure investment in our outer urban communities, and we are confident that with a rigorous, transparent process we propose for project assessment and selection, would ensure funds are distributed where they are most needed, particularly in growth areas and our outer suburbs, who have missed out on adequate infrastructure for too long.

The Greens will invest an initial \$10 billion over four years, as the first instalment in a ten year \$25 billion commitment, to prioritise the public transport that Australians need to fix traffic congestion, reduce pollution and make our cities and towns healthy and liveable.

The Greens share the NGAA's and voters' concerns with the major infrastructure priority identified in your campaign, which is to ensure better public transport options are available to outer suburban residents. We know that people are spending too much time stuck in traffic. It's bad for people and bad for the planet.



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We will also invest an additional \$250 million in arterial road works to maximise efficient traffic flow and enable better bus services to suburban and outer-urban communities. We want to make sure people in our suburban, outer urban and regional areas have safe and efficient roads, especially in areas where mass transit options are limited. Through improved arterials, bus priority lanes and fixing blockages to traffic flow, communities will be better connected.

We have also committed to additional funding for key transport priorities such as road safety, and active transport infrastructure. You can find more details on our transport commitments at: [www.greens.org.au/public-transport](http://www.greens.org.au/public-transport)

This election, we will also have a specific commitment to infrastructure that addresses the major gaps in services and facilities for suburban and outer urban communities.

This includes three major announcements in the coming days to be made on:

- **Community infrastructure**, to provide funding for community facilities would include a range of arts, cultural, educational, sporting and recreational facilities, Well-located, well-designed and properly maintained community infrastructure helps produce stronger suburbs and greater social inclusion.
- **Green buildings**, focussing on improving energy efficiency and performance in mid-tier buildings and small to medium enterprises; and
- **Funding for a national network of Greenways**, to increase tree canopy and biodiversity in our suburbs, cool our cities and streets, and improve quality of life

In WA we've also been proud to release our follow up to our award winning Transforming Perth report, with the release of #DesignPerth – which shows our vision for a connected, liveable and sustainable Perth, focussing on world class design of communities at the neighbourhood scale, underpinned by high frequency public transport, and placing the community at the heart of the engagement process and planning system.

In order to unlock finance for infrastructure investment, the Greens would increase federal funding for productive and transformative infrastructure by up to \$75 billion and establish the Australian Infrastructure Bank to manage the financing of this investment.

Building and maintaining productive and transformative infrastructure will create jobs, will maintain and improve our quality of life, and will provide stability in the face of global uncertainty.

Instead of having public money tied up in lazy and speculative investment—particularly the housing market—The Greens want to redirect spending towards the new economy.





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The Greens will increase Commonwealth investment in infrastructure by up to \$75 billion. This will include the provision of funding for:

- Clean energy to respond to the threat of climate change.
- Public transport and public housing to address liveability and affordability in urban areas.
- Rail upgrades to help shift cars and heavy freight off our roads.
- Telecommunications of the digital age, including the NBN.
- Maintenance of existing assets, particularly local government roads and storm water.

You can find more details on our Infrastructure Bank proposal, including our position on project selection and transparency of decision-making, at: [greens.org.au/infrastructure-bank](http://greens.org.au/infrastructure-bank).

Thanks again for writing to the Greens to seek our response to these key issues affecting outer urban areas in Australia. We welcome the opportunity to outline our commitments to infrastructure fixes and investment.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Richard Di Natale  
Leader of the Australian Greens & Senator for Victoria



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