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RE: DEDICATED INFRASTRUCTURE FUND FOR AUSTRALIA'S OUTER SUBURBAN GROWTH AREAS

We write in support of the framework and process for the establishment of a dedicated infrastructure fund for Australia's outer suburban growth areas, prepared for the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA).

The Committee for Sydney is proud to have supported this research and is committed to ensuring cities deliver benefits to all. We have advocated and researched this issue extensively, including research titled *Adding to the dividend, ending the divide* that encourages outcomes for the outer regions of our cities.

The report is a timely addition to current dialogue on cities and infrastructure investment. It adds to earlier work undertaken for NGAA on the infrastructure backlog and on the cost benefit of investing in infrastructure in fast growing outer suburbs. Collectively these pieces of work underline the need for, the opportunities and the benefits to be gained from establishing a dedicated fund.

There is no doubt that for productive and equitable cities we must pay serious attention to our outer suburbs. We have failed to keep pace with the population growth there and this is creating divided cities. We cannot just rely on our CBD's and inner cities to either house or employ our expanding population. Strategic, well connected infrastructure is needed to drive and to support jobs clusters in the outer suburbs and to better connect people to jobs and services. A piecemeal project by project approach to this will not work. It requires partnership and a long term dedicated funding stream.

The so called 'edges' of our cities are central to the future of our economy. How they develop is a matter of great national importance. They need investment and they need coordinated governance. This excellent research sets out a clear direction for achieving this.

Kind regards,

Dr Tim Williams
Chief Executive