

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT AUGUST 2010



Low Carbon Communities – Australian Government pledges support for energy efficient street lighting

Councils and local communities are at the front line in the fight against climate change and many have shown early leadership in acting on climate change. Now local councils and operators of council facilities will receive assistance to reduce their energy consumption and cut energy bills, under a plan to tackle climate change in our communities.

The *Low Carbon Communities* initiative is part of the Federal Labor Government's plan to reduce pollution where we live, work and travel. It will help communities transition to a greener and cheaper future by reducing pollution, cutting energy bills and taking pressure off local electricity grids.

The total cost of the *Low Carbon Communities* initiative is \$80 million. Funding for the initiative has already been provided for in the Budget through the Renewable Energy Future Fund.

Community facilities often use large amounts of energy. Public buildings account for more than 25 per cent of non-residential building emissions in Australia. Through *Low Carbon Communities*, a Gillard Labor Government will provide funds to councils and local organisations to assist with energy efficiency upgrade of local facilities, including:

- Grants of up to \$500,000 for small projects such as upgraded street lights, or energy efficient lighting and appliances at childcare or sporting facilities.
- Grants of up to \$5 million for large projects to improve energy efficiency at local community facilities such as education campuses, stadiums and aquatic centres, town halls and nursing homes. These projects could include the installation of cogeneration or new heating and air conditioning systems.

Successful projects will have to meet merit-based criteria, which will include "value for money" and environmental outcomes. Successful projects will also need to be co-funded by local communities.

As part of this initiative, the Government will also allocate \$5 million for practical support that helps councils better manage parks and other green spaces in urban areas.

LeadWest and Councils joint mission to Canberra in March 2010 flagged the issue of government support to local councils to support the introduction of energy efficient street lighting.

Vision for Werribee Plains Sustainability Agenda – LeadWest and RDA seek support

The Victorian Government has provided \$10 million under the Vision for Werribee Plains (V4WP) initiative to provide grants to support sustainability imperatives across the region. With the

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT AUGUST 2010



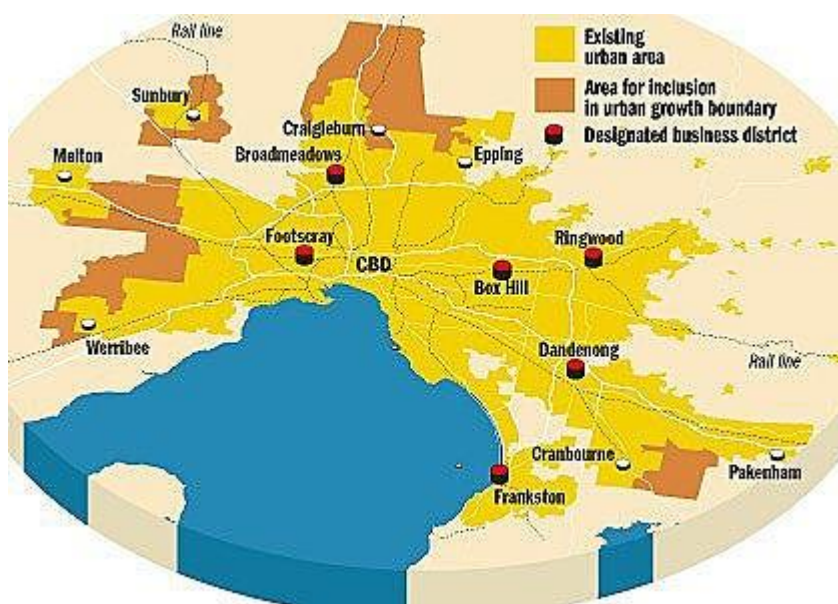
present program finishing in 2012, assistance is sought to provide additional funding for an additional 4 years so that many key V4WP elements can be delivered.

LeadWest and Regional Development Australia (RDA) have written to the Victorian Government seeking ongoing funding support to promote sustainable development in the western region.

Melbourne Grows – New Urban Growth Boundary

Already one of the world's largest cities by geographic footprint — stretching 100 kms from east to west — Victoria's Parliament voted in favor of expanding Melbourne by another 43,600 hectares.

The expansion is the biggest change to the size of Melbourne in almost a decade. The land to be released is on the city's western, northern and south-eastern fringes and is roughly equal in size to four Phillip Islands. It includes some of Melbourne's existing green-wedge land, as well as fertile food-growing areas to Melbourne's east.



The expansion is to accommodate an additional 134,000 homes for Melbourne and provide 20 years of land supply for new housing. It will deliver more land for release for housing and will help stimulate the supply that will meet existing underlying demand. It should assist in making houses more affordable for all Victorians.

Developers have argued that the decision, and any subsequent residential development, will indeed ease pressure on housing supply and affordability. Yet questions remain about services in these areas. For example, Melbourne's outer suburbs have limited access to public transport (especially rail) and residents rely much more heavily on cars to travel to the city than inner-suburban dwellers.

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT AUGUST 2010



The Victorian Government has indicated that it has an integrated housing and transport plan with housing-growth areas tied to existing or planned transport links. Housing expansion in the west is expected to be served by the planned new Regional Rail Link, In the north, housing expansion will be served by the South Morang rail extension.

However, what is also apparent is that we now need to have the debate about density because development at the urban fringe is not the long-term solution.

Australian Government supports Youth Junction in Brimbank

The Youth Junction Inc was successful in securing funding from the Australian Government under the *Community Youth Centre for Young Australians* program.

LeadWest and Councils joint mission to Canberra in March 2010 flagged the need for support for this project.

SportsWest – Consultants appointed to commence scoping study

PMY Consulting was appointed to undertake a scoping study to determine the long term viability of developing an integrated sports precinct in Melbourne’s inner west. The project is being supported by the Department of Education, Victoria University, Victoria Racing Club, Western Health, Western Bulldogs Football Club and LeadWest. The report is anticipated to be released in October 2010.

Jobs Expo for the West in September

LeadWest members are supporting a major Skills + Jobs Expo to be held on Wednesday 29th September in Wyndham. Centrelink and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations will work closely with key western region employers and regional stakeholders to deliver this important initiative.

Super Clinic proposed for Melbourne’s West

Nicola Roxon (Health Minister) visited Brimbank and announced a \$15 million for Western Melbourne Super Clinic. Expressions of interest and submissions from suitable bodies in Melbourne’s west are sought.

LeadWest Chair & CEO attended Health Reform Forum

LeadWest’s Chairman and the CEO attended a briefing on the proposed health reforms hosted by the Victorian Department of Health’s Northern and Western Metropolitan Regional Office. Key issues addressed included the boundaries of “Medicare Locals, establishment of a Health Reform Implementation group and the appointment of its coordinator, GP super clinic and the creation of a My Hospitals website.

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT AUGUST 2010



LeadWest arranging Health Reform Briefing for Council CEOs in September 2010

LeadWest is arranging to have Fran Thorn (Secretary of the Victorian Department of Health) brief Western Suburb Council CEOs on the proposed health reform program and its implications for service delivery in the west. Key items of interest will be a My Hospital website, impacts on Community Health Services, and the formation of Medicare Locals (and their boundaries).

Western Region Environmental Sustainability Forum to be held on 7th October 2010 in Sunshine

LeadWest as the auspice body of the Western Region Environmental Sustainability Accord is holding a forum for key western region stakeholders on key aspects of the region's environmental scorecard. Key areas to be addressed will cover Energy, Water and Bio Diversity.

LeadWest members input to Western Regional Plan

Key LeadWest members have provided input to the Regional Development Australia for incorporation into their Regional Development Plan for Melbourne's west. A number of LeadWest members are involved on the RDA advisory body, which is chaired by Bill Jaboor (CEO of Hobsons Bay City Council).

LeadWest supports "Business Now" Conference held on 10th August 2010 in Brimbank

LeadWest in partnership with Bendigo Bank sponsored the "Business Now" Conference held in Keilor. As a key small business support initiative, it attracted over 200 small business operators drawn from across the western suburbs.

LeadWest joins Maribyrnong Council in lobbying Health Ministers to support Western Health

LeadWest has supported Maribyrnong City Council in its advocacy work directed at the Health Ministers of the Victorian and Australian governments. The aim is to secure on-going funding support to underpin the continued expansion and development of Western Health's hospitals at Footscray, Sunshine and Williamstown.

LeadWest Chairman hosts Infrastructure Australia luncheon

LeadWest's Chairman hosted a luncheon for western suburb council CEOs, providing an opportunity for them to meet with the senior executives of Infrastructure Australia. Key projects that were promoted to as important for the west included the Regional Rail Link, Metro Rail Tunnel, Westlink and the Truck Action Plan.

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT AUGUST 2010



LeadWest arrange briefing on NBN rollout on 16th September 2010 in Moonee Valley

In partnership with Regional Development Australia, LeadWest will facilitate a briefing for Councillors and councils' senior officers on the multi-billion dollar investment in the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The guest presenter will be Duncan Bremner of NBN Co, which was established by the Federal Government to design, build and operate the NBN to enable super fast broadband services to be provided to Australian families and businesses. Duncan joined NBN Co in mid 2010, with a specific focus on engagement with local governments and addressing the challenges of NBN rollout to metropolitan, rural, regional and remote communities across Australia.

LeadWest to tour Westgate Bridge strengthening/upgrade work on 17th September 2010

LeadWest has organised a tour for its members of the Westgate Bridge strengthening and upgrade work on 17th September 2010. The Westgate Bridge / M1 upgrade are key elements of the Victorian Transport Plan and are designed to raise the carrying capacity of this transport artery linking Melbourne's CBD and the communities of the Melbourne's western suburbs.

LeadWest supports Councils in advocating for the "longer tunnel" option for WestLink

On behalf of its western suburb council members and other key inner west stakeholders, LeadWest has promoted the "longer tunnel" (aqua) option as the preferred outcome for the WestLink project. This option provides the greatest scope to support the longer term redevelopment of the inner west and drive improvements to local urban amenity.

LeadWest CEO attends meeting of Victorian Road-based Public Transport Advisory Council

LeadWest's CEO participated in the August meeting of the Victorian Road-based Public Transport Advisory Council meeting. Key issues addressed at this meeting included:

- Review of VicRoads Works Program for 2009/10
- Increased use of tram Lanes by buses
- Proposed Advisory Council Workshop on buses and trams
- Presentation on the Transport Integration Act
- Progress report on the Trafficable Easy Access Stop Trial
- Summary of bus and tram projects completed in 2009/10
- Outcome of market segmentation for tram passengers

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT AUGUST 2010



LeadWest CEO participates in WPC Group Graduation Ceremony

LeadWest's CEO joined with its newest member, the WPC Group, at its 2010 graduation ceremony held in Docklands. The WPC group is one of the major apprentice and training organisations serving the communities of the western suburbs.

LeadWest CEO attends Western Water Corporate Plan Launch

LeadWest's newest member is Western Water, which operates across the Melton Shire and beyond to Bacchus March and has developed state of the art facilities for water treatment. LeadWest's CEO attended the launch of Western Waters' 2010/11 Corporate Plan, which was officially launched at Tabcorp Park facility of Harness Racing Victoria (HRV). HRV uses recycled water for its facilities. The keynote speaker at the launch was the Hon Rob Hulls (Deputy Premier, Attorney General and Minister for Racing).

LeadWest CEO attends meeting of "Westgate Community Wind" Steering Committee

LeadWest's CEO joined other LeadWest members, Victoria University and Bendigo Bank at the steering committee meeting for the Westgate Community Wind project.

LeadWest CEO attends meeting of Westlink Community Reference Group

LeadWest's CEO attended the August Westlink Community Reference group meeting. Key issues addressed were:

- Regional Rail Link Project update
- Truck Action Plan Update
- Westlink Route option release
- Western Ring Road upgrade
- Westgate Bridge Strengthening / M1 project
- Metro Rail Tunnel

LeadWest CEO convenes meeting of Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework

LeadWest was successful in securing state government funding to support western regional sustainability projects and is now supporting the Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework (RESF) in their endeavours to hold a western region community forum to address regional environmental imperatives. The community forum is planned to be held on the 7th October 2010 at the Victoria University Conference Centre in Sunshine.

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT AUGUST 2010



LeadWest CEO attends meeting of Advisory Board of Regional Development Australia

The Regional Development Australia (RDA) program has the potential to support initiatives that can assist with the further development of Melbourne's west. LeadWest's CEO attended the regular RDA Board meeting hosted by the Brimbank City Council.

New team member for LeadWest

Mr Craig Rowley has joined LeadWest as Manager, Business & Projects. Craig comes to LeadWest after nearly eight years serving the City of Stonnington in a number of senior roles. Earlier Craig worked as a management consultant with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, with the City of Melbourne's Best Value Taskforce and with engineering firm Kinhill Brown & Root.

Anton Mayer

Chief Executive Officer

LeadWest Ltd

P O Box 2382, Footscray, Vic. 3011

Tel: +61 3 9317 5794 Fax: +61 3 9317 0721

Mob: 0400 905 455 email: anton.mayer@leadwest.com.au