

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT OCTOBER 2010



LeadWest meets with Minister for Public Transport – the Hon. Martin Pakula

In support of its members LeadWest has submitted detailed submissions in respect of the \$4.2 Billion Regional Rail Project. In addition, LeadWest's Chairman and CEO met with Minister Martin Pakula to highlight the importance of this project in driving growth in the western region. LeadWest reinforced the importance of high quality corridor based integrated land use planning and urban design within this key project. It was most gratifying that a number of key features were incorporated, covering important grade separation in both Greenfield and Brownfield locations.

Toolern Precinct highlights jobs focus

Toolern – located 39 kilometres north-west of Melbourne's CBD – will have a population the size of Mildura with around 55,000 people in 22,000 homes on 2,300 hectares of land.

Best of all, Toolern will feature the creation of one new job for every household. This will mean the 600 hectares of land set aside for employment will create some 22,000 jobs over the next 25 years.

Features of the suburb include:

- A range of housing options for families, couples, sole occupants and empty-nesters.
- At least eight government schools (six primary and two secondary schools).
- A range of non Government schools along with kindergartens and community care facilities.
- Four town centres featuring public spaces, supermarkets and local services to ensure the daily needs of locals are met, as well as a number of smaller town centres to be located within residential areas.
- A major activity centre combining a future train station and bus interchange with a range of retail, civic, employment, residential and educational uses to provide Toolern with a commercial and civic heart.
- Pit and pipe to each residence in anticipation of the National Broadband Network.
- An extensive network of landscaped parks and recreation areas, shared paths, sporting facilities and playgrounds.
- A new regional park to establish a green heart for the Shire of Melton and provide large recreation and parkland areas.

Taylor's Hill West to be broadband ready

Taylor's Hill West, a 217 hectare site, will be home to around 6,500 people (2,300 new homes) and will adjoin the western boundary of the very successful Caroline Springs township.

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The Precinct Structure Plan for Taylors Hill West is the first to require pit and pipe installation as part of the Minister's new Guidelines. This will put this new suburb ahead of the game when it comes to being National Broadband Network ready. Leadwest was part of the working group that included Multimedia Victoria, the Department of Planning and Community Development and Municipal Association Victoria that will see the Commonwealth adopt the Victorian model on rolling out broadband in Greenfields sites as policy.

No EES required for Section 1 of Regional Rail Link

The Regional Rail Link Section 1 forms part of the Regional Rail Link project that will separate regional trains from metropolitan trains to give Geelong, Bendigo, and Ballarat trains their own dedicated tracks through the metropolitan system from Sunshine to Southern Cross Station.

Victorian Planning Minister, Justin Madden, has determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) will not be required for Section 1 of Regional Rail Link subject to conditions being satisfied.

The project, which will create new and upgraded railway infrastructure as part of the \$4.3 billion Regional Rail Link, would however need to meet the conditions attached to his decision including completing a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan and a noise impact assessment report.

The proposed alignment for the rail project had sought to minimise the environmental effects of the project and was mostly contained within the existing rail corridor. Section 1 of the Regional Rail Link – from Moonee Ponds Creek in West Melbourne to Deer Park – is in an urban area co-located with existing rail infrastructure.

The Regional Rail Link Authority will be required to prepare a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan at least three months prior to the commencement of works. This plan needs to manage environmental effects during project construction and operation.

The Environmental Management Plan will need to address effects on non-indigenous cultural heritage, traffic disruption, habitat protection, and offsetting and management of vegetation (including the Sunshine Diuris orchid).

The Regional Rail Link Authority must also prepare a noise impact assessment report in consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority. The report is to provide a robust analysis of likely noise in the area together with an evaluation of feasible mitigation measures. The noise impact management report needs to be completed to the Minister's satisfaction within four months. Prior to finalisation of the report it will be subject to peer review.

Amendments are required to the Planning Schemes for Melbourne, Maribyrnong, Brimbank and Melton to enable use and development of land for the project to proceed subject to conditions. The conditions require use and development to be carried out in accordance with the Environmental Management Plan and development plans to be prepared for certain sections of

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the works to enable more detailed architectural, urban design and landscape matters to be considered and addressed. Notice of approval of these amendments has been gazetted.

In addition, the project area will fall under the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009*.

The Regional Rail Link Authority can now proceed with the next stages of the project, including the public acquisitions required for the project.

For information about Regional Rail Link visit www.transport.vic.gov.au/rrl or email rrl@transport.vic.gov.au. Information on the EES decision and process is available on the Department of Planning and Community Development website: www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning/environment-assessment/referrals/decisions-on-ees-referrals

LeadWest to facilitate growth of Arts & Cultural resources in Melbourne's west

LeadWest's Chairman and CEO met with directors of the Footscray Community Arts Centre to explore areas of cooperation with a view to growing the Arts & Culture assets of Melbourne's west. In addition, LeadWest's CEO met with Arts Victoria to ascertain possible areas of Victorian Government support to develop an Arts & Culture strategy for Melbourne's west.

LeadWest to hold its AGM on 10th November 2010 at Whitten Oval

Preparations are well advanced for the 3rd LeadWest AGM. With a growing corporate membership, the 2009/10 AGM will be held at Whitten Oval, the home of the Western Bulldogs. Once formalities are completed, the keynote speaker will be Prof Peter Sheehan, the Director of the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University.

SportsWest Feasibility Study nears completion

Major western region stakeholders attended the final working group meeting reviewing the SportsWest study. Opportunities to grow the contribution that the broader sports science industry could make to job creation and innovative networks are seen as substantial. The final report will be available on the LeadWest website in early November for LeadWest member reference.

Maribyrnong Defence Site – Vision takes shape

LeadWest joined other key regional stakeholders at a VicUrban convened launch of the Shared Vision for the Maribyrnong Defence Site. Officially launched by the Hon. Bill Shorten MP (Maribyrnong) and the Hon. Marsha Thomson MP (Footscray) the vision proposes a master plan that incorporates environmental sustainability and liveability as its core elements.

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Health Forums to chart new strategic direction for Melbourne's West

LeadWest participated in Health sector forums for Western Health as well as the Western Region Health Centre and Pivot West. Melbourne's west continues to strive to capture resources to tackle a range of key health imperatives including diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Continued funding support to grow the Western Health hospitals and the Mercy Hospital in Werribee is seen as high priority, as is the need to properly fund primary health care.

LeadWest hosts Keep Australia Working Advisory Committee

LeadWest hosted the meeting of the western region committee of the Keep Australia Working (KAW) initiative. With a principal aim of funding job creation initiatives the KAW has delivered key project funding into the education and skills sector, the arts and manufacturing across Melbourne's west. The KAW initiative is also underpinning the Western Region Employment Expo to be held in Werribee in early November.

Entrepreneurs Business Network Function

Hosted by Victoria University School of Enterprise, over 30 local businesses attended a business briefing breakfast at which a number of presenters highlighted various government assistance programs designed to support the growth of small businesses.

LeadWest meets with Department of Health officials

LeadWest's CEO met with officials of the NW region of the department to discuss the development of a western region health & wellbeing strategy drawing upon the "healthy cities" methodology. A further meeting is scheduled for late November to refine the study and develop TER. At the meeting the LeadWest CEO will be joined by the CEO of Western Health & the CEO of Western Region Health network.

LeadWest participates in Transforming Tram Corridors Workshop

LeadWest's CEO joined member councils at a Department of Transport workshop to develop strategies to support the transformation of tram corridors in Melbourne. The aim is to improve levels of service along tram routes to support existing users and to support continued urban consolidation and renewal.

LeadWest organises NBN visits to councils in Melbourne's west

LeadWest facilitated a visit by Duncan Bremner of NBN Co to councils in Melbourne's west. The visit provided an update on roll out of the national broadband network and reaffirmed the "NBN readiness" of councils in Melbourne's west.

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LeadWest meets with Growth Areas Authority (GAA)

LeadWest's CEO met with GAA executives to discuss developments associated with both the Melton-Caroline Springs and Wyndham growth corridors. The provision of cost effective infrastructure and local jobs is a major challenge faced by both communities.

Western Transport Alliance (WTA) Meeting

LeadWest's CEO attended the WTA meeting hosted by Maribyrnong City Council. Key issues addressed included:

- Vic Roads presentation on Roads strategy impacts upon the western suburbs
- Shaping Melbourne's Freight Futures discussion Paper
- Regional Rail Link Submission
- Port of Melbourne Container Capacity discussion paper
- Westlink update
- Metro Rail Tunnel update
- Western Ring Road upgrade

LeadWest to participate in Strategic Health Forum in November 2010

LeadWest's Chairman and CEO have been invited to participate in the Western Region Health Forum to be hosted by the Western Region Health Network. Health Ministers from both the Federal and Victorian governments have been invited to attend this key event, which will help shape policy direction in the health sector as it effects Melbourne's west.

Western Region Councils CEO's Meeting

LeadWest's CEO participated in the monthly Western Region Councils CEO meeting hosted by Maribyrnong City Council. Key issues addressed included:

- Briefing on Western Chances Youth support initiatives
- Impacts on the UGB on metropolitan areas
- WAGA
- Regional Rail Link Advocacy Strategy

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LeadWest hosts Community Forum for Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework

LeadWest provided auspice and hosted a Community Forum on the Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework at Victoria University's campus in Sunshine. It attracted 80 guests and covered three focus areas – Energy, Water and Biodiversity. The forum is a precursor to the establishment of an "Environment Pillar" for Melbourne's west, which is to be convened under the LeadWest umbrella.

LeadWest lodges submission on expansion of Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)

The Victorian Parliament ratified Amendment VC68 on 29th July 2010, paving the way for the expansion of Melbourne's urban growth boundary (UGB). The next step in the planning process for the GAA will be to produce high level Growth Area Framework Plans (GAFPs) for the new growth areas, and where necessary revise existing GAFPs. The GAFPs will:

- Identify the long term pattern of urban growth;
- Identify the location of broad urban development types, for example activity centres, residential, employment, freight centres and mixed use employment;
- Identify the boundaries of individual communities, landscape values and, as appropriate, the need for discrete urban breaks and how land uses in these breaks will be managed;
- Identify committed transport networks and options for investigation, such as future railway lines and stations, freight activity centres, freeways and arterial roads;
- Identify the location of open space to be retained for recreation, biodiversity protection and flood risk reduction purposes guided and directed by regional biodiversity conservation strategies;
- Show significant waterways as opportunities for creating linear trails, along with areas required to be retained for biodiversity protection and/or flood risk reduction purposes;
- Identify appropriate uses for areas described as constrained, including quarry buffers; and
- Include objectives for each growth area.

As was the case with *Melbourne at 5 million*, a whole of government approach will be applied to the preparation of GAFPs. The GAA will lead the preparation of GAFPs, and a range of Victorian government departments and agencies will assist in their preparation.

The process of preparing the plans has formally begun with a call for submissions. Submissions are to be sent to the GAA by 3rd November 2010.

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LeadWest Lodges Transport & Freight submissions to Victorian Government

LeadWest has lodged detailed submissions to the Victorian Government on the following key transport infrastructure and freight initiatives:

- WestLink Route Option
- Regional Rail Link
- Shaping Melbourne's Freight Future – Intermodal Freight Terminals

LeadWest has also been able to secure the support of Regional Development Australia in endorsing the thrust of the LeadWest submissions.

Additionally, the Victorian Government has released its preferred route option for Westlink which is in line with the preferred route set out in LeadWest's submission. The "Aqua" option minimises impacts on the community and involves a longer tunnel that emerges beyond the residential area near Paramount Road. A freeway connection would then link the tunnel to the Western Ring Road following the blue option, which has been modified to avoid disruption to a large number of businesses in Sunshine West.

Jobs Expo for the West to be held on 8th November 2010

LeadWest members are supporting a major Skills & Jobs Expo to be held in Werribee on Monday 8th November 2010. 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.

LeadWest arranging Health Reform Briefing for Council CEOs in December 2010

LeadWest is arranging to have senior representatives of the Victorian Department of Health provide a brief presentation to CEOs of councils in Melbourne's west on the proposed health reform program and its implications for service delivery in the west. Key items of interest will be creation of a My Hospital website, impacts on community health services, and the formation of Medicare Locals (and their boundaries).

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

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- Westlink Route option release
 - Western Ring Road upgrade
 - Westgate Bridge Strengthening / M1 project
 - Metro Rail Tunnel

Transport Plan briefing hosted by Tim Pallas Minister for Roads and Major projects.

With the implementation of many initiatives in the Victorian Transport Plan now well underway and supporting policies such as Freight Futures being finalised, Department of Transport officials and Minister Tim Pallas briefed key stakeholders on current developments and to review future directions for policy direction in this vital area of infrastructure.

LeadWest CEO attends Water Resource efficiency briefing hosted by City West Water

LeadWest joined other key stakeholders at a water resource efficiency forum hosted by City West Water. A variety of speakers outlined current thinking in improving water use efficiency and showcased a range of sustainability initiatives being undertaken across the western region.

The Future is Electric Forum

LeadWest participated in a forum showcasing latest developments in electric vehicle innovation hosted by Maribyrnong City Council. At the forum, LeadWest's Manager Business & Projects noted an issue with the Victorian Government's method of recruiting participants for the Victorian Electric Vehicle Trial. Registration to participate in the trial, by driving a supplied Electric Vehicle for a 3 month period, is only available online through the RACV website. He suggested that the councils of Melbourne's west inform their communities of the process for registering interest in participation in the Victorian Electric Vehicle Trial project and perhaps facilitate registration for those without internet access.

LeadWest attends briefing on Victorian Business Centres

LeadWest's CEO attended a briefing session on Victorian Government Business Offices hosted by Jacinta Allan, Minister for Industry and Trade. The Victorian Department of Innovation, Industry & Regional Development has recently opened a small beachhead regional office located in the Sunshine CBD to serve the rapidly growing western region. The regional office will hope to expand to contain 15-20 staff once suitable office facilities can be located.

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LeadWest lends its support to Victoria University

LeadWest has supported an application by Victoria University to secure funding support from the Australian Government to support the introduction of Inter-Professional Education (IPE) across ten of the University's health disciplines. Victoria University is seeking a total of \$22.9 Million to underpin investment in purpose built health clinics and teaching laboratories at their Werribee campus.

Advisory Board of Regional Development Australia (RDA)

The 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 Wyndham City Council. A comprehensive briefing was conducted on the Werribee Employment precinct by both DPCD and executives from the City of Wyndham.

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