

LEADWEST

2009 CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2009

Encouraging Better Public Services

LeadWest's CEO participated in a key stakeholder evaluation to measure the quality of relationship between Connex Melbourne (provider of suburban passenger rail services) and commuters and other organisations. The evaluation looked at four key dimensions of relationships: trust, commitment, satisfaction and mutuality of control.

FEBRUARY 2009

Showcasing Melbourne's West

LeadWest provided a briefing on regional development issues to a visiting delegation of Swedish Local Government Officials. Victoria University facilitated this visit which enabled the Swedish delegation to

look at best practice examples of local government service.

MARCH 2009

Touring the Port of Melbourne



LeadWest Directors and members participated in a boat tour to gain a better understanding of the Port of Melbourne Corporation's pivotal role in underpinning the growth of the Victorian economy. As Australia's busiest port, the Port of Melbourne had been undertaking significant expansion and upgrade of its major shipping channel into the Port to

support more efficient ships being able to use the port facility.

Partnering for Health in the West

LeadWest and HealthWest formed a partnership, signing a MOU in an effort to develop a coordinated approach to addressing the significant health challenges facing the residents of Melbourne's west.

Meeting Federal MPs from the West

With LeadWest's support, Council Members developed a priority projects list which was delivered to Federal MPs from Melbourne's west (including the Hon. Julia Gillard, the Hon. Nicola Roxon, the Hon. Brendan O'Connor and the Hon. Bill Shorten).

Covering the key imperatives for Melbourne's west – i.e. jobs growth, health and community services, regional and local infrastructure, transport and environment – the projects list and associated discussion with the MPs reinforced the message that

existing services were being stretched by rapid population growth in Melbourne's west.

Urgent funding is needed to support improvements to existing services and infrastructure as well as for development of new infrastructure assets and community facilities and services.

Influencing our Freight Future

LeadWest partnered with the Western Transport Alliance to advocate to the Victorian Government. We sought greater detail including time frames for the WestLink project.



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A Forum looking at the impacts of “Victoria’s Freight Future” on the western suburbs was also held in Altona.

The WTA secured speakers drawn from the Victorian Government, operators in the Port of Melbourne, and transport and logistics companies to address issues of great interest to western suburbs stakeholders and provide an update on key infrastructure developments planned and proposed.

APRIL 2009

Identifying Strategies for the West

LeadWest Directors held a half day workshop to review LeadWest operations and develop its operational priorities for 2009/10. In view of the rapidly changing business climate as a result of the global financial crisis, a review of priorities was canvassed to reflect the growing concerns

around jobs and the general state of the western region economic landscape.

Focusing on Skills Development

Stakeholders representing the education sector in Melbourne’s west met with LeadWest to develop strategies and secure media attention on the highly important education and skills agenda.

With economic conditions and employment levels looking likely to be impacted negatively in 2009, the case for a heightened focus on skills development was seen as requiring strong government support.

Encouraging Entrepreneurs in the West

LeadWest supported Victoria University in organising the Western Region Awards, designed to encourage the entrepreneurial process. The competition, developed with teachers in the region, provided prizes to participating students demonstrating excellence in the development of innovative business plans. The initiative

had the strong support of industry leaders in Melbourne’s west.

Focusing on Water Sustainability

LeadWest’s Chair and CEO participated in a Western Suburbs Water Forum at which Minister Tim Holding outlined the Victorian Government’s “Our Water Our Future: the Next Stage Water Strategy”. Key topics included water desalination, water pipeline projects and water saving initiatives.



Being Accountable to Members

LeadWest held its Inaugural Annual General Meeting on 29th April 2009, which proved to be a huge success with very positive

feedback. The event was held at the ClockTower Centre in Moonee Ponds and was well attended by representatives from Council Members and Corporate Members, as well as other interested stakeholders.

A presentation by guest speaker, Mr. Brian Haratsis, Managing Director for MacroPlan Australia was well received.

Recommended Constitutional changes were passed to enhance the clarity of the Constitution and enable the smooth operation of LeadWest.

Having completed its first year of operation since its Launch in April 2008, LeadWest had built a strong position in the region as an active advocate for western suburbs imperatives and successfully positioned itself at the centre of the key issues facing western region communities.

Supporting Business Excellence

LeadWest partnered with Melton Shire and participated as a judge of the Melton Shire Business Awards. The Awards, designed to recognise business excellence and

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encourage and support business development in the rapidly growing Melton Shire, attracted a large number of quality applicants across a wide range of categories.

Supporting Educational Opportunities

LeadWest's CEO supported Western Chances in an education workshop held at Sunshine Secondary College. With the involvement of Orchestra Victoria, over 80 students from the western suburbs were able to further develop skills by performing with professional musicians acting as coaches and mentors.

Energising Enterprise

Leadwest partnered with its Council Members and Hobsons Bay City Council in to plan for "Energise Enterprise 2009". After a similar highly successful event in 2008, the impetus was evident to grow this important business development event to underpin the development and growth of local jobs in local communities.

Working with Maribyrnong Council

LeadWest's CEO participated in a Community Forum looking at developing the broad parameters of the Community Plan for the City of Maribyrnong. As a community undergoing significant transformation with significant demographic and ethnicity changes, the development of an inclusive Community Plan was a priority.

MAY 2009

Providing Budget Briefings

LeadWest secured the Hon. Bill Shorten, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for both Disabilities & Children's Services as well as Victorian Bushfire Relief, together with the Hon. Martin Pakula, Victorian Minister for Industry & Trade and Minister for Industrial Relations to provide a briefing on the

implications of their respective budgets for the communities of Melbourne's west.



This significant event was held at Moonee Valley Council Offices on the Friday 15th May 2009 and proved most successful with over 100 attendees drawn from the region's councils and stakeholders.

Communicating with MPs from the West

LeadWest's Chairman and CEO briefed Victorian Government MPs from Melbourne's west on the latest undertakings by LeadWest and its members and outlined LeadWest's operational priorities for 2009/10.

Focusing on Economic Development

LeadWest participated in an Australia/China Business & Investment Forum held at Melbourne Town Hall. Opened by the Hon Martin Pakula, the event attracted over 100 businesses with a number from Melbourne's west. Representatives were also present from both Brimbank and Melton Councils.

Focusing on Transport in the West

LeadWest, along with key stakeholders from Melbourne's west, attended a briefing by the Department of Transport on both the \$4.5 billion Regional Rail Link project and the proposed Metro Rail Tunnel. These

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investments in major transport infrastructure will be a catalyst to support the further growth and economic development of Melbourne's west.

Supporting Tourism in the West

LeadWest joined other tourism stakeholders from Melbourne's west in supporting the launch of the new Melbourne's West "Official Visitors' Map". The event, attended by over 70 key organisations, was supported by the Hon. Steve Bracks who is now the patron of the Western Melbourne Tourism Alliance.

Seeking Investment and Innovation Fund

Leadwest sought the view of the Victorian Government on whether the present joint Federal/State initiative to support creation of new or additional business capacity via the South Australian Innovation & Investment Fund and the Geelong Innovation & Investment Fund would become a template for other regions wishing to secure the growth of sustainable new jobs and creating new or additional

business capacity into areas, particularly those adversely impacted by looming "business closures".

Melbourne's west had been adversely impacted by the impacts of globalisation and the global financial crisis. Rising unemployment levels brought about by a number of significant plant closures in Melbourne's west had added to the socio economic malaise of this region. LeadWest believed a case could be made for regionally-focused business stimulus funds to become the template for driving the innovation agenda for manufacturing elsewhere and that such a program should be created for Melbourne's west.

JUNE 2009

Calling for Local Employment Coordinator

The Prime Minister's announced that the Australian Government would appoint Local Employment Coordinators in seven

regions to marshal training, infrastructure and Jobs Fund investments to maximise job opportunities in local communities hit hardest by the effects of the global recession. The seven regions were determined by using a range of labour market and social indicators. LeadWest called for Melbourne's west to be included in the next regions to get a Local Employment Coordinator.

Attracting New Members

Bendigo Bank, Telstra and CitiPower & Powercor Australia joined LeadWest. These organisations have significant operations in Melbourne's west, are major drivers of economic growth and well placed to provide valuable input into the array of advocacy imperatives LeadWest seeks to deliver on in support of the communities of Melbourne's west.



JULY 2009

Joining the Committee For Melbourne

LeadWest joined the Committee For Melbourne in order to promote regional imperatives of mutual interest. The Committee For Melbourne, with its strong membership base, adds additional weight in supporting LeadWest's public policy advocacy for the communities of Melbourne's west.

Calling for Student Safety

LeadWest's CEO issued a press statement which expressed LeadWest's concern at the spate of attacks on international students and welcomed the collaborative approach agreed on by Education and Training Ministers to improve the international student experience in Australia.

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Supporting the Harmony Walk

LeadWest joined with councils from Melbourne's west, Victoria University and other key regional stakeholders in holding a public demonstration to support multiculturalism. Representatives boarded the "Harmony Train" from the western suburbs into the City of Melbourne to support the Victorian Government's Harmony Walk.

Promoting Melbourne's West

LeadWest began coordinating production of a special weekend issue supplement in *The Age* newspaper focusing on Melbourne's West. The overall theme will be along the lines of Melbourne's West – A great place to live, work, educate, invest and visit" and would touch upon all the key themes highlighted in LeadWest's Western Agenda and aim at changing some of the misperceptions held of the western region.

Supporting Victoria University

LeadWest supported Victoria University in its endeavour to have Skills Victoria review the Higher Education legislation. The educational disadvantages and low aspirations for many communities in Melbourne's west is well documented and it is essential that Victoria University, as the premier education institution for Melbourne's west, can operate efficiently and align its operational activities with its governance, reporting and funding requirements in order to maintain high standards and educational outputs.



Focusing on Employment

Melbourne's North Western Melbourne (Vic) has been included in the Priority Employment Areas announced recently by the Federal Government. LeadWest has been actively advocating for the west of Melbourne to be included as a region to be accorded status as a new Priority Employment Area in order to receive increased support for jobs.

Providing Feedback on the Revised UGB

LeadWest provided feedback on the Victorian Government's draft Revised Melbourne Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). LeadWest advised that community wellbeing needs to be supported by enhancing choice of affordable housing options, delivering on the complex and multifaceted transport needs of people and businesses and creating meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities in Melbourne's west. LeadWest noted it will be a challenge to deliver all this whilst

protecting our highly valued open space and biodiversity.

Seeking an RDA Office in the West

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is an Australian Government initiative that aims to bring together all levels of government to enhance the growth and development of regional Australia. RDA will be supported by a network of committees across Australia, which will build on and replace the Australian Government's existing network of Area Consultative Committees (ACCs).

In Victoria, RDA will be supported by Victorian Government agencies such as Regional Development Victoria (RDV). There will be nine RDA Committees for Victoria, generally aligned with the Victorian Government administrative boundaries. Four of these will be located in metro Melbourne – West, North, South East and East.

The Victoria Government intended to have a combined office to serve the west and

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north and favoured locating that office in Melbourne's north.

LeadWest viewed that intention as disadvantageous for Melbourne's west and has wrote to the Hon. Jacinta Allan, Minister for Regional Development, supporting establishment of an RDA office in Melbourne's west.

partnerships to identify new streams of job creation.

Meeting the LEC for Melbourne's NW

LeadWest's CEO met with Mr Michael Reardon, the interim Local Employment Coordinator (LEC) for Melbourne's north-west. LeadWest offered to host LEC until more permanent office arrangements could be secured.

Supporting a NBN Co. HQ in Melbourne

LeadWest wrote to key Ministers of the Australian Government supporting Victoria's bid to headquarter the newly formed NBN Co. LeadWest believes that basing the new NBN entity headquarters in Melbourne will ensure NBN rolls out more quickly and cost effectively than would otherwise be the case, especially given the strong ICT industry business base located in Victoria.

Working with DSE on the V4WP

LeadWest's CEO participated in a workshop hosted by the Department of Sustainable Environment to review the aims and operations of the Vision for Werribee Plains (V4WP) funding program and recommend improvements.

Focusing on our Environment

LeadWest's Chairman and CEO participated in a Committee for Melbourne Forum on Climate Change. They also participated in a Carbon 101 briefing delivered by Victoria University's business sustainability project "Envirohub" and auspiced by Wyndham City Council as part of its Sustainability Festival.

Focusing on Economic Development

LeadWest's CEO addressed Economic Development Australia's Mid Year Forum, which was attended by over 50 economic development practitioners from across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

Focusing on Infrastructure

LeadWest joined business, community and government leaders in looking at Victoria's key infrastructure imperatives driven by Victoria's growing population and the need to maintain Victoria's economic competitiveness.

Planning for Werribee Precinct

LeadWest's Chairman and CEO participated in a dinner hosted by the Hon. Tim Pallas at which key regional stakeholders explored opportunities arising from job growth in the Werribee Employment Precinct. Concept plans for the precinct were explored.

Focusing on the Digital Economy

LeadWest's CEO wrote to all Members providing current thinking on the strategic direction of the digital economy in Australia.

AUGUST 2009

Getting Priority Employment Area Status

North Western Melbourne was made a new Priority Employment Area. The Australian Government's announcement followed recommendations in the interim *Keep Australia Working* report into which LeadWest provided input. As a Priority Employment Area, the region got a funded Local Employment Coordinator (LEC). The LEC helps coordinate employers, Job Services Australia and not-for-profit

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Working with the WTA

LeadWest's CEO provided input into a Western Transport Alliance (WTA) forum on transport imperatives in Melbourne's west. Some key issues addressed included – Metro Rail, the WestLink Project briefing, High Performance Vehicles, a Western region Intermodal / Logistic facility, the Regional Rail Link project, the Outer Metro Ring Road and the Truck Action Plan.

Celebrating Engineering Excellence

LeadWest's CEO participated in the Victorian Engineering Excellence Awards. The awards celebrate the achievements of some of Victoria's most successful engineers and recognize, reward and encourage engineering excellence across the categories of innovation, industrial development and manufacturing, environment and sustainability, infrastructure and technology.

Helping to Shape Melbourne

LeadWest's CEO participated in the "Shaping Melbourne" forum convened by the Committee For Melbourne and chaired by the CEO of VicUrban, which was designed to develop a blueprint to support Melbourne's growth to a city of 10 million residents.

Supporting WAGA

LeadWest supported the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) in their response to the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper by providing details on Germany's Industry and Investment guidelines in respect of climate-friendly investments. Victoria has an MOU in place with Germany and the guidelines will greatly assist policy formulation.

Supporting Melton's Economy

LeadWest's CEO joined other key Melton stakeholders and business leaders at the launch of the Melton Economic

Development Strategy by the Hon. Julia Gillard.

Supporting WPC Group

WPC Group Ltd is a major western suburbs, not-for-profit group training organisation specialising in the employment and training of apprentices and trainees. LeadWest's CEO officiated at the graduation ceremony for apprentices and trainees drawn from across Melbourne's western suburbs.



Focusing on Education and Skills

LeadWest attended a key stakeholder roundtable at the Victorian University campus in Melton hosted by the Hon. Jacinta Allan, Minister for Skills & Workforce Participation. The key focus was on tertiary education provision in outer urban areas as a priority issue.

Focusing on Economic Development

LeadWest's CEO and representatives from members Victoria University and Nufarm participated in the Australian Government's Trade & Investment Forum which focused on Australia's future in the Global Economy and its implications for domestic economic development and jobs.

Supporting Victoria University

LeadWest supported Victoria University in its quest to secure funding support for redevelopment of its Water & Food Sustainability Unit, which is located at its Werribee campus. The new facility, when completed, will accommodate 20 staff and 30 research students in a state of the art facility that will be a key gateway development into the Werribee Employment Precinct.

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SEPTEMBER 2009

Supporting Western Chances

Western Chances delivers economic, social, cultural and educational benefits to talented, self-motivated, financially disadvantaged young people in the western suburbs community. LeadWest joined other key partners in supporting a Western Chances Forum for youth in Melbourne's west. The keynote speaker was former Victorian Premier, the Hon. Steve Bracks.

Highlighting Melbourne's West

LeadWest finalised the production of a region map of Melbourne's west. The map was made to support economic development, tourism and investment attraction. Adopting a stylised theme, the map is available in high definition to enable quality reproduction.

Focusing on Transport

LeadWest participated in a Victorian Rail Freight Governance Forum convened by the Australasian Centre for the Governance and Management of Urban Transport. Key aspects addressed covered both intra and interstate rail freight demands and the role that intermodal / logistics terminals play in efficient supply chain.

Communicating with the West's MPs

LeadWest's CEO met with an adviser to the Bill Shorten MP to provide a briefing on a number of LeadWest initiatives unfolding across Melbourne's west.

Working with DEEWR

LeadWest's CEO met with the State Director of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to scope out operational arrangements for the Local Employment Coordinator role for Melbourne's west. A key role for the LECs, who are allocated to regions experiencing

jobs losses and declining economic demand, is to work in close partnership with key western region businesses, education and training providers and employment service providers to support the growth of jobs and build community infrastructure to support local jobs growth.

Attracting New Members

Major western region organisations, Cedar Woods Property Group and Essendon Airport joined the LeadWest alliance. Both organisations are major drivers of economic growth within the region and are well placed to provide LeadWest with valuable input into an array of advocacy imperatives.



Focusing on New Developments

LeadWest's CEO joined other key inner western regional stakeholders at a VicUrban convened briefing and stakeholder roundtable discussion on the Maribyrnong Defence Site redevelopment. The Maribyrnong site occupies a 127 hectare footprint with approx 3km of river frontage and represents a unique redevelopment opportunity for the inner west.

Communicating with Ministers

LeadWest CEO joined with other Committee For Melbourne members in convening a luncheon for the Hon. Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science & Research. Senator Carr discussed the Australian Government's national innovation agenda, as well as measures to support research and innovation.

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Supporting Business in the West

LeadWest's CEO joined Sunshine traders in their Inaugural Business Association Networking evening. The event attracted over 200 guests drawn from predominantly small business operators drawn from across Melbourne's western suburbs.

Celebrating Member's Achievements

LeadWest CEO attended the prestigious Victorian Engineering Excellence Awards sponsored by the Victorian Government. The Hon. Tim Pallas, Minister for Roads & Ports, was the Guest of Honor at the event, which was attended by over 600 engineering industry luminaries. City West Water, a LeadWest Corporate Member, was recognised for "workplace innovation" having demonstrated significant workplace improvements.



Working with the OKC

LeadWest's CEO met with the Office of Knowledge Capital (OKC) to explore regional development systems that can underpin the growth of small to medium enterprises in Melbourne's west. LeadWest arranged for LeadWest members to participate in supporting the OKC's research, drawing particularly on the expertise of Victoria University.

Showcasing Melbourne's West

LeadWest finalised arrangements with the *The Age* newspaper to run a special supplement focusing on the renaissance that is occurring in Melbourne's west and will showcase the "best of the west".

Preparing for NBN Rollout

LeadWest, in partnership with its Council Members and the Municipal Association of Victoria, have been championing the development and rollout of the National

Broadband Network and appropriate policy for greenfield developments.



Focusing on New Infrastructure

LeadWest arranged for a briefing to key western stakeholders by the Linking Melbourne Authority on the proposed WestLink project.

Supporting Business in the West

LeadWest's CEO joined 100 business leaders drawn from the inner west at a networking evening jointly hosted by key LeadWest members – the Western Bulldogs and Telstra. This joint initiative has done much to support business growth for small and medium business operators within the west.

OCTOBER 2009

Addressing the Education & Skills Agenda

LeadWest, in partnership with Victoria University, and other key western region education and training sector stakeholders, staged a Western Region Education & Skills Conference in October 2009.

The issue of skills and raising education standards was seen as a key regional imperative in the LeadWest Business Plan for 2008/09 and a key underlying theme of the Western Agenda.

Melbourne's west has the lowest rate of tertiary qualified graduates in metropolitan Melbourne. The skills shortfall in this area requires local employers to import approximately \$2.8 billion of high-end skilled staff. In addition, Melbourne's west faces low school retention rates and the highest youth unemployment rate in metropolitan Melbourne.

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The Hon. Julia Gillard delivered a keynote address at the Forum. The Deputy Prime Minister spoke about raising the overall education and skill levels of the residents of Melbourne's western suburbs, and how vital it is in addressing the jobs/ local employment imperatives that underpin the region.



Other speakers at the Forum included the Hon Bronwyn Pike, Victoria's Minister for Education, Prof. Elizabeth Harman, Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University, Ms Michelle Bissett, ACTU Senior Industrial Officer and Mr Wayne Kayler-Thomson, the CEO of VECCI.

NOVEMBER 2009

Focusing on Healthy Communities

LeadWest's Chairman and CEO participated in the HealthWest Partnership Strategic Health Forum. The keynote speaker at the forum was Hon Rob Knowles who is a commissioner from the Nation Health & Hospitals Reform Commission and Chair of the Mental Health Council of Australia. The forums key focus was on Healthy Communities, Health Lives as well as addressing diabetes in Melbourne's west which is at unacceptably high levels.

Communicating with Council CEOs

LeadWest's CEO addressed the CEOs of Member Councils and Hobsons Bay City Council on upcoming initiatives being carried out by LeadWest. Key issues touched upon were:

- Report on the Western Region Education & Skills Forum

- Regional Development Australia Boards / Office update
- Feedback on the LeadWest AGM & Regional Strategy Forum
- Western Region Priority Projects List for 2010
- Planning for a Delegation to Canberra
- *The Age* supplement on Melbourne's West

Sharing the Western Agenda

LeadWest's CEO briefed representatives of the Committee For Melbourne at a luncheon hosted by GHD and chaired by George Pappas, the chairman of the CfM. Attended by 20 key decision makers, this event afforded LeadWest an ideal opportunity to share with guests our broad Western Agenda

Focusing on Higher Education

LeadWest joined Victoria University in attending the Business Higher Education Round Table forum to address key issues

facing Higher Education institutions and their relationships with Business. The keynote speaker at the forum was the Hon. Julia Gillard, Federal Education Minister.

Influencing the WestLink Project

LeadWest's CEO was asked to participate in the WestLink Community Reference Group established by the Linking Melbourne Authority, which is undertaking a major planning study for the Westlink project - a road connection between the Port of Melbourne and the Western Ring Road.

Focusing on Growth in the West

LeadWest joined other key stakeholders to look at the new shape of Melbourne which was unveiled as amendments and legislation were introduced in Parliament by the Brumby Labor Government. Planning Minister Justin Madden said the changes would help to manage Melbourne's long term growth by ensuring land supply and keeping house prices affordable, while ensuring our city remains one of the world's most welcoming and

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liveable cities. Mr Madden released a map of Melbourne's future development - highlighting land that will be home to our newest suburbs, grassland reserves, the Regional Rail Link and the Outer Metropolitan Ring/E6 transport corridor.

Attracting New Members

LeadWest's CEO briefed the manager of Scienceworks in Spotswood about LeadWest imperatives and explored areas of future cooperation particularly in the tourism and education, skills and training areas. Museums Victoria, which runs Scienceworks, had attended LeadWest's Education & Skills Forum and expressed an interest in becoming a Corporate Member of LeadWest.

Supporting the Living Museum

LeadWest supported the launch of the Living Museum of the West, held at Pipe Makers Park in Maribyrnong. Attended by over 80 civic leaders and community groups, the launch event highlighted the rich heritage along the Maribyrnong River.

Focusing on Transport in the West

LeadWest's CEO participated in a round table forum looking at the key projects under the West Connect banner most notably:

- Regional Rail Link
- WestLink
- Truck Action Plan
- M80 Upgrade
- Melbourne M1 upgrade

Supporting Business in Wyndham

LeadWest's CEO attended the Wyndham City Council Business Breakfast held at the Point Cook Town Centre. Over 80 key business representatives listened to speakers from VicHealth, the AFL and Victoria Police.

Focusing on Employment in the West

LeadWest's CEO joined other key western region stakeholders in the "Keep Australia

Working Forum" sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and held in Brimbank and Maribyrnong. The Forum, which was also supported by Victoria University, was used to highlight the recent appointment of the "Local Employment Coordinator" appointed by DEEWR to oversee jobs imperatives in Melbourne's western and northern suburbs. Issues that need to be addressed in order to foster jobs growth within the region were highlighted and possible strategies to tackle these issues were canvassed.

Supporting the WynBay LLEN

LeadWest supported the application of the Wyndham & Hobsons Bay Local & Employment network, also known as WynBay LLEN, in its submission to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations seeking funding for two Trade Training Centres in the region - one located in Wyndham and the other in Hobsons Bay. The Trade Training Centres

will train young people in traditional trades in skill shortage areas.

Supporting Wind Farming in the West

LeadWest joined with other key inner western suburbs stakeholders to support the possible development of a Community Wind Farm to be located in Yarraville adjacent to the Westgate Bridge. The initiative had its genesis at Maribyrnong City Council, but has now received indicative support from many in the community including Bendigo Bank, and Victoria University.

Focusing on Climate Change

LeadWest's CEO attended an AusIndustry Forum outlining assistance measures available to assist business prepare for the impacts on their business of climate change issues. A variety of grants exist to assist business to both reduce their carbon footprint and adopt a range of both power and water saving technologies into their production processes. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$500,000 on a 50:50 basis.

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Focusing on Health in the West

LeadWest's CEO joined the Australian Community Centre For Diabetes Leadership Group. The focus of the group is to address the high rates of diabetes in the communities in Melbourne's west and to raise the issues awareness both within the community as well as government.

Working with Western Health

LeadWest's CEO attended the Western Health Annual meeting and was briefed on their strategic direction and future master plan for further development. LeadWest has strongly supported Western Health's aspirations to secure funding support from government in order that it can deliver even greater services to the rapidly expanding populations in Melbourne's west.

Focusing on Housing in the West

LeadWest's CEO participated in a Housing Forum looking at supportive housing

models. The issue of social housing is a critical issue that needs to be addressed given the abyss that has been created between those who can and cannot afford to buy their own home.

Addressing Climate Change

LeadWest's CEO participated in a key regional stakeholder forum to develop a strategy to reduce energy consumption across the west as a means of addressing the climate change imperative. The project which has received funding under the Vision for Werribee Plains (V4WP) Grants program was attended by over 50 regional representatives and the findings of the forum will be developed into a regional strategy document.

Focusing on Road Infrastructure

LeadWest's CEO attended a Municipal Association of Victoria forum addressed by the Hon. Tim Pallas and focused on local roads projects. Local roads are seen as increasingly critical in an effective total supply chain solution. Increasing funding

emphasis will be directed at addressing local roads issues in order to improve productivity and support industry development. Findings of this workshop will be incorporated into a Victorian Government submission to Infrastructure Australia to assist with deliberations on infrastructure planning and investment.

Working with the West RDA Board

LeadWest's CEO was appointed to the Western Metropolitan Melbourne Regional Development Australia (RDA) Board. The inaugural Board meeting was convened by its Chairman Bill Jaboor, who is also CEO of Hobsons Bay City Council.

An immediate need for the RDA Board was development of a Business Plan and a "regional imperatives" database. LeadWest provided strong support with that work.

LeadWest also wrote to the Hon. Jacinta Allan, Minister for Regional Development supporting the establishment of an RDA/RDV office in Melbourne's west.

Working with the WTA

LeadWest's CEO provided input into the Western Transport Alliance forum on the west's transport imperatives. Key issues addressed included:

- Metro Rail
- WestLink Project briefing
- High Performance Vehicles
- Western region Intermodal / Logistic facility
- Regional Rail Link project
- Outer Metro Ring Rd
- Truck Action Plan

Working with the Growth Area Authority

LeadWest's CEO attended a Growth Area Authority (GAA) stakeholder function to review GAA operations. The keynote speaker at the forum was the Hon. Justin Madden, Minister for Planning. Melbourne's growth areas have been expanding rapidly, particularly in the outer

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western suburbs and an area of key focus for LeadWest is the funding of much needed infrastructure investments.

Supporting Students in the West

LeadWest's CEO participated in the annual St Alban Colleges Student mentoring initiative. Raising the education and skills profile of the west is seen as a vital imperative, particularly in the Brimbank community which has high levels of social disadvantage.

Focusing on Transport in the West

LeadWest's CEO attended a Municipal Association of Victoria forum on transport to address issues in respect of both the *Major Projects Facilitation Act 2009* and the Transport Integration Bill which were anticipated to make a real difference to the way transport is organised and managed in Victoria.

Focusing on Education and Skills

LeadWest's CEO joined with Victoria University in participating in a CEDA convened forum addressing the role of education as a driver of economic growth. The full day forum was attended by over 200 representatives drawn from across academia, government and the business community.

Implementing the V4WP

LeadWest's CEO joined other panel members in deliberations on possible projects to receive funding support under the Vision for Werribee Plains initiative. An additional 17 applications were received seeking approx \$3.5 million in grants.
