



Media Release

No Train No Gain

If the Baillieu Government dumps the Regional Rail Link project, the growth of Melbourne's west cannot be sustained.

LeadWest CEO Anton Mayer is extremely disappointed that the Baillieu Government seems to not appreciate the importance of the Regional Rail Link.

"I get the impression that the whilst the new government is quite happy to let the population of Melbourne's west grow at unprecedented levels, it appears much less inclined to partner with the Australian Government to provide the necessary transport infrastructure to underpin that growth."

The Regional Rail Link is intended to increase capacity and reduce congestion on country lines to Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo. It would also provide long overdue public transport access for some of the most rapidly growing populations of Melbourne's outer west and, most importantly, take pressure off the already congested existing metropolitan rail services in Melbourne's west.

LeadWest will be joining the local governments of the region, seeking urgent meetings with the Premier to highlight the critical imperative that is the Regional Link Rail and seek clarification on statements made by Transport Minister, Terry Mulder in which he seems to question the viability of the project.

Any delay, let alone abandonment of this project, exacerbates Melbourne's transport problems and seriously damages any prospect of sustainable growth in Melbourne's west. Quite simply, it's a case of "no infrastructure; no manageable growth."

Melbourne's west is the fastest growing region in Victoria, with one of the fastest growth rates in Australia. Yet the region has long suffered from under-provision of transport infrastructure to support its population growth. We already have very limited access to public transport and this has created an untenable situation for our residents faced with congested trains and grid-locked traffic.

Recent changes to the Urban Growth Boundary will drive further growth out west and it is obvious to all living here that any future population growth simply needs the Regional Rail Link project delivered — now.

LeadWest and councils in Melbourne's west will be seeking the Premier's assurance that the Regional Rail Link project gets the green light to enable sustainable growth in Melbourne's west.

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About LeadWest

LeadWest Ltd was formed by the metropolitan western region councils. Its board members are representatives from the councils, businesses and educational institutions of Melbourne's West. LeadWest was formed to foster and undertake actions that support the sustainable growth and development of the region. It builds on the existing social, economic and environmental capacity of the region, to ensure a sustainable future for communities and businesses of the West.