

# Media Release

## Rail Link OK Opens Opportunities

LeadWest welcomes the announcement today by Minister for Public Transport Terry Mulder that the vital Regional Rail Link Project will proceed.

“Regional Rail Link is not just about laying tracks”, said LeadWest Chief Executive Anton Mayer, “It’s much more than that. It opens a great deal of opportunity.”

“It’s a very wise decision to proceed with this vital project because it is part of how we support growth and renewal in Melbourne’s western suburbs—the fastest growing part of the nation now — as well as better connecting Melbourne with the regional cities of Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong.”

“It is also how we protect and improve Melbourne’s liveability – reducing noise and road congestion, upgrading rundown stations and encouraging business and development,” Anton Mayer said.

The Regional Rail Link will drive redevelopment in Sunshine, Footscray and West Footscray – which supports population and economic growth in Melbourne’s inner-western suburbs.

Sunshine Station is surrounded by 8 hectares of vacant or undeveloped land that is government owned. The station is badly connected to the main street with pockets of poor visibility that affect passenger safety. The surrounding area is rundown and dangerous. The Regional Rail Link project presents an opportunity to transform the Sunshine Station precinct.

The project also addresses major congestion and safety problems at the two Anderson Street level crossings near Sunshine Station. Removal of the level crossings will improve safety and would also reduce traffic congestion.

Footscray Station is also poorly connected to its environment and its surroundings are badly rundown. The Regional Rail Link project addresses these issues by upgrading the station facilities with a new forecourt entrance. The footbridge will be extended and fitting escalators and a new lift which will improve access.

The project is also vital for the new suburbs being rapidly developed at Tarneit and Wyndham Vale. With ‘future-proofing’ by building quality station precincts, full cuttings and grade-separation of road and rail, the Regional Rail Link both establishes sustainable transport for the families moving out west and stimulates the development of local activity centres.

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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.