

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT MARCH 2011



AGENDA 1: EDUCATION & SKILLS

Western Chances Scholarships

LeadWest joined with other sponsors, as well as western region stakeholders, in celebrating the achievements of Western Chances scholarship recipients at an awards function hosted by Moonee Valley City Council. To enhance education opportunities for youth from lower socio economic areas, LeadWest is proud to be a sponsor of Western Chances youth initiatives.

Victoria University Achievement Awards

Prof Peter Dawkins, Vice Chancellor, Victoria University hosted the VU Scholarship Program Awards forum and LeadWest was a participant. VU's innovative program offers scholarships to students drawn from

every school in Melbourne's west. The scholarships are based on the students' records of achievement when measured against their peers at their own schools.

ACFE Grants

LeadWest's CEO joined other directors of the Board for Adult and Community Further Education (ACFE) in evaluating over 50 funding submissions from community organisations seeking grants to support training and skills programs, as well as innovation initiatives across Melbourne's metropolitan north-west region.

WynBay LLEN Board

As part of the WynBay LLEN Board, LeadWest's CEO participated in its March Executive Meeting. Key issues addressed covered:

- Proposed meeting with Minister for Schools, the Hon. Martin Dixon
- Youth Transition Network Report deliberations
- Youth Partnerships Report feedback
- Student management systems development
- Performance review of operations.

SkillsWorks

LeadWest's CEO joined directors from its member organisation, WPC Group, as well as other key stakeholders in a reference group meeting to discuss the "Skillsworks" concept. The proposal aims to draw together bodies from the Australian Government and Victorian Government, in partnership with the

corporate sector, to raise the level of awareness of what will be Australia's future skills requirements.

AGENDA 2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & JOBS

Business Roundtable with Minister for Manufacturing

LeadWest's CEO joined key western suburb manufacturers at a Western Metropolitan Business Roundtable. The meeting, hosted by the Hon. Richard Dalla-Riva, Victoria's Minister for Manufacturing, Exports & Trade, provided the opportunity for business leaders to highlight the challenges facing manufacturers in the west and identify opportunities where the Victorian Government can support skills development and innovative business process

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT MARCH 2011



innovation and provide export assistance. The Minister also floated potential establishment of a Melbourne's West Manufacturing Council to act as a conduit to assist local industry with an innovation agenda. LeadWest has sought a meeting with the Minister to further explore opportunities in this endeavour.

Manufacturing Regained

LeadWest has worked with a team from Melbourne University (funded by the Australian Government through Enterprise Connect) to hold a Roundtable Discussion with local manufacturers, educators and other manufacturing industry stakeholders from the region. The "Manufacturing Regained" luncheon will be held on 4th April 2011 at Whitten Oval. To stimulate discussion guests will hear from Mr

Dan Swinney, from the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council, a partnership between business, labour, government, community organisations and educators to strengthen the capacity of Chicago's local manufacturers to compete as a global leader in complex, advanced manufacturing.

Energise Enterprise Planning



In the planning of a regional Energise Enterprise event, LeadWest is working with Economic Development Officers from the councils across the region, including Hobsons Bay. The Energise Enterprise event will be held in August.

Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards

The 2011 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards, to be presented on 29th April at a function at Witchmont Estate, will now include the LeadWest Best New & Emerging Business Award. LeadWest's Manager Business and Projects is also serving as a Judge for the Services and Arts categories.

Highpoint Shopping Centre Redevelopment

LeadWest's CEO met with the consultant appointed to conduct a series of focused stakeholder consultations around the redevelopment and expansion of Highpoint. Highpoint is a major employer in the west and its expansion will create a large number of new jobs both in the construction

phase but also in the retail sector going forward. The precinct will undergo a \$300 million expansion which will add an additional 30,000 m² of retail space, including a David Jones.

AGENDA 3: TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Regional Rail Link Advocacy

LeadWest continues to work with the Civic Group, member councils and other interested councils to formulate a cohesive advocacy strategy in support of the Regional Rail Link. The multi-faceted strategy encompasses both media articles and written submissions to MPs, as well as other stakeholder buy in. In line with the campaign strategy, LeadWest has added RRL content to

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT MARCH 2011



its website, focused on RRL on its Facebook site and is using Twitter to further reinforce the messages. Local and statewide media coverage of the issue is increasing in the lead up to the Victorian Government's 2011/12 Budget.

Linfox Avalon Airport

LeadWest's CEO joined other key regional stakeholders in meeting with Linfox Avalon Airport executives to be briefed on future development opportunities. As Melbourne's second Airport and with a future that includes international air services, the Avalon precinct can become a significant employment centre in the outer west. The new Victorian government has also recognised the precincts development potential and has commissioned a study to look at the construction of a rail link to serve the facility.

AGENDA 4: HEALTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Better Health Plan for the West

LeadWest, in partnership with key stakeholders in the region's health sector, has helped fund a major piece of strategic research to develop a "better health plan" for Melbourne's west. The Nous Group has been appointed to undertake the study, which is due for completion by June 2011. As part of the stakeholder community consultation process, a partnership workshop was held on the 25th March.

HealthWest Partnership Forum on Medicare Locals

LeadWest joined other regional health sector stakeholders at a strategic forum to discuss issues in respect of the establishment of

Medicare Locals and develop a position paper as to the preferred model.



The general view of the forum is that one Medicare Local in Melbourne's west covering the 5 LGAs is the preferred outcome. Such a Medicare Local can be internally structured to ensure sufficient focus on individual and/or clusters of specific LGAs faced with similar health challenges.

Diabetes Initiatives

Through its role on the leadership group on the Australian Community Centre For Diabetes, LeadWest continues to press for funding support to underpin initiatives to tackle the unacceptably high levels of diabetes prevalent in Melbourne's west. The region continues to be a hot spot for diabetes, with communities located within Brimbank recording levels of diabetes amongst the highest in Australia.

Western Region Health Centre Strategic Plan

LeadWest joined other key health sector stakeholders from across Melbourne's west to help shape the Western Region Health Centre's strategic plan.

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT MARCH 2011



AGENDA 5: ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & IMAGE

Andrew Elsbury MLC as Chair of Vision For Werribee Plains (V4WP)

LeadWest's CEO convened a meeting for V4WP grants panel members with the Hon. Andrew Elsbury, MLC to brief him on this regional sustainability funding program and to welcome him as the V4WP program's independent chairperson.

Forum with the Hon. Greg Hunt MP

LeadWest's CEO attended a forum for over 100 key business and community leaders at which the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment & Heritage, delivered a key note address on the future of Australian cities. Mr Hunt's

presentation had a particular focus on:

- Planning for quality of life and the role of cities
- Mechanisms for genuine bipartisanship and cooperation on long term planning
- Growth at the fringe and urban infill
- Infrastructure provision and funding.

Werribee Plains Environmental Sustainability Framework

The LeadWest Environment Group (LEG) is to be established to harness the momentum of the Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework (WP RESF). It is to be chaired by Ms Anne Barker, LeadWest Director and

Managing Director of City West Water. Membership will comprise representatives of the WP RESF Water and Natural Environment groups, the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action, and the Department of Sustainability and Environment. LeadWest also participated in the second meeting of the WP RESF Water Group at which it was agreed to pursue a Regional Water Budget project, as well as to support and participate in the "Greening the West" initiative.

Greening the West

LeadWest participated in the "Greening the West" Think Tank event organised by City West Water. The event brought together over 100 of the region's stakeholders to focus on the potential for improving health and liveability in Melbourne's west through strategic planting of trees

and other vegetation. Speakers included Dr Greg Moore and Dr Nick Williams of the University of Melbourne, Rodney Dedman from the Department of Health, Ian Shears from City of Melbourne, and Richard Marks from EPA Victoria. Breakout groups developed input to inform development of the "Greening the West" strategy.

Briefing on Footscray CAD

LeadWest participated in a briefing on the proposed Footscray CAD and explored possible development opportunities within this important precinct.

The Footscray CAD, given its strategic position close to the Melbourne CBD, the Port of Melbourne and key transport infrastructure, is ideally placed to become a major centre for

LEADWEST MEMBERS / COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT REPORT MARCH 2011



employment growth and attract major investments.

AGENDA 6: TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

Western Melbourne Tourism Inc. is inviting nominations from suitably qualified people to join the WMT Board in a voluntary capacity. Five vacancies exist for ordinary board members to represent the interests

of the tourism sector in Melbourne's west.

Western Region Football League Launch

LeadWest attended the launch of the 2011 season for the WRFL. The WRFL would like to form a better cooperative relationship with councils in Melbourne's west as both the WRFL and the local governments play important roles in community strengthening.

AGENDA 7: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Western Region Council CEOs Meeting

LeadWest's CEO participated in the Western Region Councils CEOs meeting at Hobsons Bay Council to address issues of regional significance. Key issues addressed included:

- WestLink Project update

- MAV presentation on improving Emergency Management Programs
- Federal Government Community Cabinet
- Regional Rail Link Advocacy Strategy
- Western Transport Alliance Forum Update.

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