

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



For past editions please visit www.leadwest.com.au

| | | | |
|--|----|--|----|
| BRIMBANK | 4 | HELP ANSWERING AGEING'S DEMANDS | 15 |
| LIFE SUCKED FROM ST ALBANS ECO PLAN | 4 | HEROIN BACK WITH A VENGEANCE | 16 |
| CAIRNLEA ESTATE ALL CLEAR | 5 | FENCE SUNSHINE PLAY AREA FOR SAFETY - MUMS | 16 |
| HOONS' SHORTCUT PROVES A HEADACHE FOR RESIDENTS | 5 | KEILOR BUTCHERS MAKE THE CUT | 17 |
| HOPE IN BRIMBANK JOBS FIGURES | 6 | HOBSONS BAY | 17 |
| STUDIO TALKS | 7 | YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE | 18 |
| DOG OWNERS MAKE THE CALL | 7 | INCLUSION IN MELBOURNE'S WEST | 18 |
| SOUND OF SILENCE | 8 | TRUCK TRAFFIC ANGER RISES | 19 |
| FIGHT FOR OPEN SPACE | 8 | CALL TO ARMS FOR WOMEN | 20 |
| PALLIATIVE BOOST FOR WEST RESIDENTS | 9 | COUNCIL IN KOSKY CHORUS | 20 |
| \$51M LURE FOR WEST'S MEDICOS | 9 | RESTAURANT FOOD BREACHES | 21 |
| SOBERING STATS ON VIOLENCE | 10 | LAVERTON ARTS INITIATIVE GETS A STAMP | 21 |
| FORMER BRIMBANK COUNCILLOR FINED FOR POLL BREACH | 11 | NEW PLANS FOR NEWPORT TIMBER YARDS | 22 |
| DEMAND HIGH FOR A SPECIAL KIND OF LOVE | 12 | MARIBRYNONG | 23 |
| CASH TO BOOST HOME CARE FOR TERMINALLY ILL | 12 | MP WANTS UPGRADES TO WESTERN HOSPITAL | 23 |
| ZINC AT CAIRNLEA ESTATE 'POSES NO RISKS' | 13 | NO ONE IMPRESSED BY 'DISAPPEARING' TRICK | 23 |
| KEILOR VILLAGE DETAILS REVEALED | 14 | TRUCK COUNT REVS UP MOORE ACTION GROUP | 24 |
| WALK A WHILE | 14 | FESTA FALLS OVER AS COUNCIL TRIPS | 24 |
| | | FROM LIQUID TO GEL, NOW LIQUIDITY | 26 |
| | | LIQUOR STORES LINKED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | 26 |

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



| | | | |
|--|----|--|----|
| ROOMING HOUSE ALERT IN MARIBYRNONG | 27 | MELTON AND MOORABOOL STUDENTS GAIN SELF-ESTEEM | 39 |
| ROSS SLAMS PERMITS..... | 28 | MELTON COUNCIL GALLERY WARNING REJECTED | 40 |
| STATE IN HEALTH SHOCK | 28 | NAMING OF MELTON SUBURB AFTER LYDIA LASSILA NOW UNLIKELY | 40 |
| BRAKE THE TRUCKS..... | 29 | MOONEE VALLEY | 41 |
| BACK TO SCHOOL FOR HEALTH MINISTER | 30 | NEW LAWS WILL PROSECUTE OWNERS OF ATTACK DOGS | 41 |
| RAIL LINK TENDER | 30 | KEILOR ROAD TOWER PLAN GETS RISE FROM COUNCIL | 42 |
| BURGS ON THE RISE | 30 | CRACKDOWN ON LICENSED VENUE LAWS | 42 |
| PETER'S FINALS CAMPAIGN | 31 | MOONEE VALLEY POLICY PUTS LID ON LIQUOR FREE-FOR-ALL | 43 |
| FAREWELL TO THE FUN CENTRE | 32 | STRATHMORE NORTH SCHOOL'S IN | 43 |
| WARD CHANGES IN THE WIND | 32 | UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY IN MOONEE PONDS | 44 |
| MELTON | 33 | MOONEE VALLEY VISION FOR CITY STREETS ON THE LINE..... | 44 |
| SUBURB GETS A FOXY NAME | 33 | LAWYERS CALL FOR STOP-SEARCH RECEIPTS | 45 |
| DOG OWNERS ON NOTICE | 34 | NO ROOM, SO MOONEE VALLEY'S GROWING UP | 45 |
| FUNDS PUT TO PALLIATIVE CARE..... | 35 | MOONEE VALLEY WINS AWARD..... | 46 |
| DOGS: CALL TO JUDGE THE DEEDS, NOT BREEDS | 35 | OPERATION ROLLER TO TARGET NORTHERN SUBURBS CRIME | 47 |
| FOSTER CARE: CUDDLES MAKE EFFORT WORTHWHILE..... | 36 | MOONEE VALLEY WINS AWARD..... | 47 |
| RESIDENTS UP IN ARMS AT OPEN-CUT MINING | 37 | WYNDHAM | 48 |
| MINER KEEPS MUM | 38 | OPPORTUNITY ABOUNDS IN WYNDHAM | 48 |
| JUST OPEN YOUR HEART..... | 38 | \$1M CRUSHER CLOCKS ON IN WYNDHAM..... | 48 |
| MELTON AND MOORABOOL SUPPORT NETWORK HAS THE RIGHT MOVES | 39 | WYNDHAM COUNCIL WORKERS TO VOTE ON STRIKE | 49 |

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



| | | | |
|---|----|--|----|
| EXTRA HELP FOR WYNDHAM POLICE IN NEW BLITZ ON CRIME | 50 | RAIL UNION STEPS UP METRO WAR AS COMMUTERS FACE DISTRUPTION PAIN | 61 |
| VCAL CASH CUTS HURT | 50 | | |
| COUNSELLORS BACK LAWS ON LENDERS | 50 | | |
| LITTLE RIVER BATTLE WON, BUT FAR FROM OVER | 51 | | |
| GROG SALES 'TIED TO VIOLENCE' | 52 | | |
| YOUTH ON THE ROAD AGAIN IN WYNDHAM | 52 | | |
| ARTIST DEFENDS CAT SCULPTURE | 53 | | |
| FROM THE MANOR TORN IN WYNDHAM VALE | 54 | | |
| WEDGED IN AGAINST HOUSING IN POINT COOK | 54 | | |
| BOOZE BUSES NO HIT ON FACEBOOK | 55 | | |
| RADIO WAVES GO GAY IN WYNDHAM | 55 | | |
| REPORT PROBLEMS AS THEY APP-EN IN WYNDHAM | 56 | | |
| BOOK IN THIS PAGE-TURNING SWAP IN WERRIBEE | 56 | | |
| NEW GIRAFFE ARRIVES TONIGHT | 57 | | |
| HELP FOR WYNDHAM KIDS IN TROUBLE | 57 | | |
| ACROSS THE REGION | 57 | | |
| ONELINK DEMANDS \$20 MILLION METCARD BONUS..... | 58 | | |
| JOIN CONSTRUCTION FIGHT, SAYS FORMER WATCHDOG..... | 58 | | |
| WAIT ON RAIL COPS..... | 59 | | |
| CAMPAIGN: 101 JOBS IN 101 DAYS | 60 | | |

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



BRIMBANK

LIFE SUCKED FROM ST ALBANS ECO PLAN

Brimbank Leader – 14th September 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/life-sucked-from-st-albans-eco-plan/>

Home to native grasslands, striped legless lizards and an abundance of environmental resources, the Iramoo Sustainable Community Centre in St Albans seemed the perfect place to build an Eco-Living Centre.

With a goal of teaching the community how to implement environmentally-friendly practices around the home, volunteer group the Friends of Iramoo applied for a grant.

In 2008, Sustainability Victoria allocated \$300,000 to Victoria University, which houses the centre on its campus, for "the existing Iramoo education centre ... extended and retrofitted to host sustainable living programs for residents in Melbourne's west".

After discussions with VU, Brimbank Council, City West Water and the St Albans Community Centre, a business plan was prepared, a steering committee formed, meetings were held and progress made.

"The plan was to procure an old weatherboard house, transport it to the site, retrofit it with sustainable equipment such as a grey water system, energy-efficient electricity, insulation and solar water," volunteer and steering committee member Jack Sheridan said.

"The building was to be used to display to interested persons what was involved in the installation of sustainable equipment in their homes and pass on necessary information.

"The site was considered to be ideal due to adjacent grasslands - it is the heart of sustainability in Victoria."

Almost three years on, there is still no centre.

And, despite a February 2010 newsletter on the Iramoo website saying the centre would be next to Jones Creek's spring-fed lake, Mr Sheridan said later last year talks started to move the centre away from the St Albans site.

"Major players in the project had no idea these discussions were taking place," he said.

"Then we started to hear the estimated cost for the project was to be \$790,000.

"We reckon it could have been done for about \$30,000, but so far over \$60,000 has been spent."

Mr Sheridan said the group would abandon its own proposal if a different site was chosen.

Victoria University's Innovation and Commercial Director Tina Rankovic said the site was no longer feasible.

"The university is in discussions with Sustainability Victoria about alternative locations for the Eco-Living Centre with a view to ensuring that the location remains in the west of Melbourne, meets the original purpose, and ensures access by the community," she said.

Ms Rankovic did not explain why Iramoo was no longer feasible.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



A Sustainability Victoria spokeswoman said VU had informed it “that they were interested in reviewing the location of the site”.

“We have asked for a revised project plan that considers a range of options,” she said.

CAIRNLEA ESTATE ALL CLEAR

Brimbank Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/313/story/140311.html>

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria has given Cairnlea Estate the all-clear after carrying out soil samples at a number of sites.

The findings of the study, released this month, confirm previous EPA studies which stated the site is safe to live on.

The estate was the home of the Albion Explosives Factory, which closed in 1987, and concerns have been raised that the site hundreds of Brimbank residents call home was contaminated.

The EPA carried out a review of initial soil testing in 2007 and was forced to test land again after further complaints were made to the Victorian Ombudsman.

In the latest findings, the EPA have found the average zinc levels are 70 times less than the trigger point for health concerns, which is 7000 milligrams per kilogram.

An EPA spokesperson told Star the zinc was naturally occurring and not a result of the activities of the explosives factory.

“The site is unlikely to pose an unacceptable risk to either current or future users of the area,” the spokesperson said.

However, the EPA is refusing to release the full report, with the explanation that it is “not a public document”.

Cairnlea resident Jason Rooth said there had always been “rumours” that the estate had been contaminated, but said residents had to trust the EPA report.

“People are more concerned about the land at the start of Cairnlea Dr and Ballarat Rd,” Mr Rooth said.

“There’s a lot of soil there... if the wind kicks up in that area, they’re not sure what it’s spraying on their property.”

But Mr Rooth said the estate may need to be tested for a third time if more development occurs which removes the top soil..

HOONS’ SHORTCUT PROVES A HEADACHE FOR RESIDENTS

Brimbank Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/sunshne-ardeer-albion/313/story/140308.html>

A group of concerned Albion residents have organised a petition calling on Brimbank Council to curb the influx of speeding motorists using their street as a thoroughfare.

Residents living on Adelaide St said they fear for their safety and that of their children, since speeding motorists have begun using it as a shortcut from Forrest St to Ballarat Rd.

Two schools and a kindergarten are located on Adelaide St.

One worried resident has even thought of moving from the usually quiet neighbourhood because of the “hoons” that keep him awake at night.

Andre Marcu has been living in Albion for almost three years and said he is fed up with the motorbikes and fast cars waking him up in the middle of the night.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Mr Marcu, who leaves his home in the early hours of the morning to get to work, said he often has restless nights because of the noise and for fear something will happen on the street.

However, his concerns not only surround speeding motorists but also what he claims are the increase of vigilantes in the area, breaking into cars and homes.

"I want to move house," he said.

"I don't feel safe.

"There are motorbikes speeding along the street from 9.30 to 12.30 at night."

Another resident who did not want to be named said something more than simple speed humps had to be installed to deter speeding motorists.

She said the small and low speed humps that had been installed across the municipality would not discourage hoons as their cars were often wide enough to drive over without even noticing them.

Another resident said "hoons" were a problem in the whole area and increased police patrols may solve the issue.

Star contacted Brimbank Council but received no response by deadline.

HOPE IN BRIMBANK JOBS FIGURES

Brimbank Leader— 13th September 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/hope-in-brimbank-jobs-figures-fbready/>

Unemployment in Brimbank is down, but still high, with Sunshine one of the three worst-affected municipalities in Melbourne.

The latest Federal Government Small Area Labour Markets report shows Sunshine had an unemployment rate of 9.7 per cent in June, 2011, down from 10.6 per cent in June 2010 - but significantly higher than the city average of 4.8 per cent.

The only Melbourne municipalities with higher unemployment are Broadmeadows (13.7 per cent) and Dandenong (11.4 per cent).

In Keilor, the unemployment rate was 5.6 per cent, up from 5.4 per cent in the previous quarter but lower than the 6.3 per cent recorded a year earlier. Statewide, unemployment has dropped from 5.5 per cent to 5.1 per cent in the 12 months to June, 2011.

Brimbank Council's community and wellbeing general manager Kelly Grigsby said the drop in unemployment could indicate a turnaround in the economy.

Ms Grigsby said Brimbank's top industries - manufacturing, retail and transport, postal and warehousing - were historically more vulnerable during economic downturns.

"These latest unemployment figures therefore may indicate that the large numbers of jobs lost in these industries during the GFC are now returning, which is boosting the employment rate," she said.

But more investment was needed in transport, health and education in the west to improve employment opportunities, she said.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



“This would have a major impact on creating new jobs and improving the employment capacity of the western region’s workforce,” Ms Grigsby said.

Ms Grigsby said the council also had programs to support skills development.

STUDIO TALKS

Brimbank Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/313/story/140319.html>

Brimbank youngsters are being encouraged to create new works through various mediums with the launch of the Talking Difference Portable Studio at Sunshine Library earlier this month.

Talking Difference is an online media project, developed by Museum Victoria, aimed at promoting diversity and challenging discrimination.

The portable studio will feature new technology, including a touch screen, HD camera, microphone and lights, to allow people to view multimedia content produced by others and then respond with their own video, audio, text and drawing. Sessions will be led by a group of young people to help others develop their skills.

The studio will be touring Brimbank from September to November.

Brimbank Council welcomed the project, particularly as it is hoped to facilitate conversations centred on cultural differences.

“We’re home to people speaking over 150 different languages and this gives them another voice. The beauty of this project is that the voice doesn’t need to be in English. Now that’s really talking difference,” Brimbank chair of administrators Peter Lewinsky said.

“Talking Difference will help strengthen our community further by widening understanding and acceptance of our cultural differences.”

Following its tour of Brimbank Council libraries, the studio will visit other organisations and will then have a home at the Immigration Museum’s “Identity: Yours, Mine, Ours” exhibition.

David Henry, senior programs officer from Immigration Museum, said the strength of the project was that communities involved were taking charge of new technologies to create their own conversations about diversity and difference.

“Through the project, people not only become new media makers but also become champions for sharing ideas and dialogue about cultural identity and tolerance,” Mr Henry said.

DOG OWNERS MAKE THE CALL

Brimbank Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/313/story/140303.html>

Brimbank Council has received an influx of calls from dog owners enquiring about restricted dog breeds.

And at least one person has surrendered their dog to the council in the aftermath of the State Government’s decision to introduce new legislation cracking down on irresponsible dog owners.

General Manager for city development Stephen Sully said the council was receiving 20 to 30 calls every day from owners of restricted breeds including pitbulls and pitbull crosses.

The figures come as Hume City Council revealed residents have surrendered more than 10 pitbull mastiff-cross breeds to the council to have them euthanized since Ayen Chol’s devastating death on 17 August.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Under the proposed amendment owners of restricted breeds or dangerous dogs could face harsh penalties and possible jail terms if their dog attacks someone.

SOUND OF SILENCE

Brimbank Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/313/story/140310.html>

Sunshine West residents are looking forward to a good night's sleep after a transport company was ordered to build a sound wall at its Vella Drive site.

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) ordered site operator Lindsay Transport Ltd to meet with Brimbank City Council in August after a series of complaints about noise coming from the Vella Drive address.

The council commissioned an independent noise consultant to carry out acoustic testing at the site, which found noise was as high as 11 decibels over accepted levels (Keep it quiet, 10 May, Sunshine Star).

The VCAT mediation resulted in an enforcement order requiring an acoustic sound barrier to be constructed in 90 days, which will be tested for compliance.

If the sound barrier meets requirements, the Lindsay Transport will be able to carry out works at the site, including the replacement of a fuel tank.

Administrator Meredith Sussex said the outcome had ensured that the company couldn't "get away with" breaching conditions.

"It is in fact a vindication of a dedicated committee and perseverance of a group of residents who had a very bad time with a breach by a very big company," Ms Sussex said.

"It's a significant victory for the residents, a significant victory for the council and a significant victory for residents across Melbourne who live near industrial areas."

Ken Mooney, a resident who lives near Vella Drive said noise had been as high as 92 decibels in his house one night.

"They've got 700 b-double plus they've got contractors going in day and night," Mr Mooney said.

"You didn't sleep properly at all.

"You were tired all the time and it was just, well, it was absolutely disgusting."

Mr Mooney said the council had done a "terrific job".

"It's a victory for all the community," he said.

"We stand together and we've won."

Lindsay Transport did not return calls from Star.

FIGHT FOR OPEN SPACE

Brimbank Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/313/story/140306.html>

Sunshine residents have rallied against a proposal to convert parkland into a housing development.

A meet and greet was held last Sunday in Albion after residents became aware of an application by Melbourne Water to convert land next to Kororoit Creek from 'Public Open Space/Public Use Zone' classification to Residential 1 so they could sell it for housing development.

Residents believe the development of the land located on Fraser St and owned by Melbourne Water, would see their houses exposed to flooding and other safety hazards and would leave them without important parkland.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



The meet and greet comes only weeks after a group of committed residents fought against a proposal from Brimbank Council to sell off parkland across the municipality.

The Save our Parks group forced the council to eventually back down on the proposal.

Nearby resident Beverley Aird said the community was adamant they would not lose their open space.

Ms Aird said too much land had already been sold off and the area needed to retain as much open space for future generations.

She also said many new families had bought in the area to be close to open space and now the council threatened to take it from them.

"This is not just an issue for locals. While local residents will be most severely impacted, our green spaces should be preserved for all Victorians.

"It is our view it should be seen as enormously important community asset, not something to be sold off."

PALLIATIVE BOOST FOR WEST RESIDENTS

Brimbank Leader– 13th September 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/palliative-boost-for-west-residents/>

Two Brimbank organisations offering palliative care have received big funding boosts.

Mercy Western Palliative Care, at Sunshine Hospital, will get \$522,325 to increase support for people with a terminal illness and keep them living in the community, with a further \$74,995 to support carers with costs.

And Western Health, incorporating the Mercy, will get \$100,000 to meet the increase in demand for its consultancy services for people with terminal illness and their families.

The funding comes as the State Government allocated \$8.6 million to palliative care agencies statewide.

Mercy manager Fran Gore said extending carer support for the service's 300 patients was vital. "Over the past four years referrals to our community program have increased from approximately 900 a year to 1400 referrals a year," she said.

Ms Gore said the funding boost would "go a long way" to meet the needs of an increasing number of people needing palliative care in the west.

Western Health chief executive Kathryn Cook said her service would use its funding to start symptom management clinics and a Radiation Therapy Service.

Health Minister David Davis said many of the 50 per cent of Victorians who suffered chronic illness before dying would benefit from palliative care.

\$51M LURE FOR WEST'S MEDICOS

Brimbank Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/51m-lure-for-west-medicos/2288769.aspx>

The hopes of attracting medical professionals to work in the booming Western suburbs rest heavily on the new \$51.6 million Western Centre for Health Research and Education at Sunshine Hospital.

Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon visited the centre on Thursday for a first-hand look at the state-of-the-art facility, a collaboration of Western Health, the University of Melbourne and Victoria University.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Officially opened in June, the centre aims to attract students to the west and keep them in the area after they are qualified.

The state government's 2012-22: Metropolitan Health Plan shows that despite being home to 11.2 per cent of Melbourne's total population, the outer west has only 7.7 per cent of GPs, 4.9 per cent of aged care and 4.3 per cent of mental health services.

Ms Roxon hopes the positive response from the first batch of about 140 students training at the centre is a good sign that future students will want to stay in the west.

"Training doctors, nurses and physiotherapists locally means they stay and work in the west and that gives locals access to better care close to home."

Associate Professor Stephen Lew, head of the Western Clinical School at the University of Melbourne, said the centre provided a superb base for studies in medical, surgical, obstetric, emergency, paediatric and aged-care training.

"We have excellent simulation and clinical training wards for all levels of hospital training, which will provide facilities typically only found in inner Melbourne, out in the west," Associate Professor Lew said.

A group of final-year students took part in a simulated life-saving exercise during the minister's visit.

Professor Geoff McColl, University of Melbourne deputy dean in the faculty of medicine, said students had embraced the centre.

"There is no more passive receiving of information. This is a chance for them to really apply what they are learning before they make their way out into the hospitals," he said.

"Western Health may have been seen as a second-tier option in the past, but this should help attract and keep students in the area."

Students will spend one day a week in a primary-care community base to build an understanding of the needs of the west.

Western Health already services about 750,000 people across the western region of Melbourne, Australia's fastest-growing area.

Chief executive Kathryn Cook said the improved training would flow on to better patient care.

Ms Roxon told the Weekly the new funding model for health care would also target the complex needs of Melbourne's west.

SOBERING STATS ON VIOLENCE

Brimbank Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/sobering-stats-on-violence/2288765.aspx>

An increase in the density of alcohol outlets has been linked by new research to a hike in assaults, hospital admissions and the incidence of chronic disease.

The findings stem from analysis of liquor licensing, hospitalisation and demographic data by the AER centre for alcohol policy research at Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre.

The report's release coincides with Brimbank Council approving the reopening of a bottle shop on Hampshire Rd, Sunshine at last week's planning meeting.

Researcher Michael Livingston said the results must be treated with caution, but they provided evidence that alcohol-related problems in Melbourne were associated with the density of alcohol outlets.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"This relationship fits with the idea that different types of alcohol outlets in a local environment impact on routine drinking activities, with high densities of packaged liquor providing a cheap source of alcohol and resulting in higher levels of drinking."

A 10 per cent rise in the rate of licences was likely to increase hospitalisation rates for assault by 0.6 per cent.

The same increase in packaged liquor outlets could increase assault rates by 0.8 per cent and hospitalisations by 1.9 per cent.

A 10 per cent increase in licensed premises increased chronic disease related to alcohol by 0.5 per cent.

Mr Livingston said little attention was paid to the effects of packaged liquor outlets on alcohol-related problems.

"The current policy emphasis in Victoria is on entertainment districts and general licences, which are again found to be related to violence in this study."

The council's general manager of city development, Stephen Sully, said the decision to approve another bottle shop in Sunshine would not increase the saturation level of liquor outlets in Brimbank as the site had recently been used as a liquor outlet.

"The planning permit application was supported with various safeguards to ensure the use does not impact on the amenity of the area," he said.

There are 79 liquor licences in the immediate Sunshine area, 19 of them for packaged liquor. St Albans has 52 licences, 12 for packaged liquor.

General Manager of community wellbeing, Kelly Grigsby, said the council recognised a high number of outlets were one of the major risk factors in harm from alcohol consumption.

But current state planning controls did not consider responsible alcohol consumption.

Sunshine Business Association president Bruce White said he would have difficulty supporting any more bottle shops opening in Sunshine.

He wants to see existing bottle shops take more responsibility for the behaviour of their customers.

"I personally believe they should be shut down if it can be shown they're knowingly selling alcohol to people who are then drinking out on the street," he said.

FORMER BRIMBANK COUNCILLOR FINED FOR POLL BREACH

Brimbank Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/former-brimbank-councillor-fined-for-poll-breach/2288768.aspx>

Former Brimbank councillor Tran Siu has been barred from running in any election for the next seven years.

In Sunshine Magistrates Court last Monday, the former deputy mayor was fined \$1500 and ordered to pay \$10,000 court costs over his role in authorising unregistered how-to-vote cards and providing false information to authorities.

Darlene Reilly made the original complaint to the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of the Sunshine Residents and Ratepayers Association, prompting an investigation by the Local Government Inspectorate.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Tran originally denied being involved in producing the unregistered cards for the 2008 council election, claiming the cards may have been printed by another party to set him up.

But an Australian Federal Police investigation traced the purchase of the cards back to Tran.

He pleaded guilty to the accusation and admitted lying to cover up his role in authorising the cards.

DEMAND HIGH FOR A SPECIAL KIND OF LOVE

Brimbank Weekly— 13th September 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/demand-high-for-a-special-kind-of-love/2288771.aspx>

Brimbank residents are being urged to add a splash of colour to their day by donning rainbow hair to mark Foster Care Week (September 11-17).

The week highlights the vital work of the foster carers who provide a home for the 5000 Victorian children who can't live safely in their first home.

Dr Lynette Buoy, chief executive of the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, said about 1700 households provided foster care in Victoria, but more were needed.

"Becoming a foster parent is an opportunity to change a child's life," Dr Buoy said.

"People may be surprised to learn that anyone who's over 20 and can offer a young person in need a secure, caring environment is eligible to become a foster carer."

Foster Care Association of Victoria executive officer Katie Hooper said: "This campaign is a chance for people to think more about being a foster carer, to

contact the hotline or book themselves into an information session at their local foster care agency."

Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services' manager of family and community services, Simone Rutherford, said it was hard to find safe, loving homes for all the children needing care.

"All sorts of people can be foster carers and carers are needed from all cultures, backgrounds and lifestyles."

Foster carers can choose the length and type of care most suited to them, from occasional respite weekends to longer-term care.

Salvation Army Westcare social worker Bruce Cameron said care was needed for children from a few days old right up to the teenage years.

"During September, we'll be partnering with Caroline Springs, Deer Park and Sunshine libraries to give away free rainbow hair extensions to promote foster care."

Extensions and foster care information will be stocked at the libraries until the end of the month.

Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service St Albans will hold an information evening from 6.30-7.30pm next Wednesday, September 21. Bookings: 92709351.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



CASH TO BOOST HOME CARE FOR TERMINALLY ILL

Brimbank Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/cash-to-boost-home-care-for-terminally-ill/2288766.aspx>

Brimbank residents with a terminal illness have received a welcome boost to help them stay in their homes.

Sunshine-based Mercy Western Palliative Care has received more than \$500,000 and Western Health \$100,000 as part of an \$8.6 million state government spending package.

Health Minister David Davis said the extra funding meant thousands more people would receive help and support in their time of need.

The \$522,325 for Mercy Western Palliative Care will boost the number of people it can help stay in the community.

The extra \$100,000 for Western Health will help it meet increased demand for consultancy by palliative-care teams working in hospitals and the community, and provide clinical assessment and advice.

One in two Victorians suffer a period of chronic illness before dying, and the need for palliative care is growing by 4.6 per cent each year.

Mercy Palliative Care manager Fran Gore said the extra funding was critical to managing increased demand in Melbourne's west.

"Over the past four years, referrals to our community program have risen from about 900 to 1400 per year," she said.

A further \$74,995 will be used to support carers with their costs.

"Carers carry great financial and emotional burdens, and this funding will give more carers much needed respite in what will be one of the most difficult times in their life," Ms Gore said.

The funding will help provide equipment to assist palliative-care patients stay in their own homes and meet high medication costs.

ZINC AT CAIRNLEA ESTATE 'POSES NO RISKS'

Brimbank Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/zinc-at-cairnlea-estate-poses-no-risks/2288772.aspx>

Soil testing at a Brimbank housing estate has detected the presence of zinc above recommended levels of concentration, a report by the Environment Protection Authority has revealed.

But the EPA says the levels of zinc - taken from one test site in the Cairnlea estate - are not high enough to affect the health of anyone working on the site of the former Albion Explosives Factory.

The EPA undertook a review of environmental audits in the estate following an investigation by the Victorian Ombudsman into prior audits of the site.

The EPA report indicated that average zinc levels across the tested areas fell within acceptable levels.

Brimbank chairman Peter Lewinsky said testing showed there was no cause for undue concern by residents.

He said it confirmed original findings that the site was unlikely to pose an unacceptable risk to current or future users of the area.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"If the audits had resulted in changes to any certificates or statements of environmental audit, council would consider and apply the necessary changes to planning provisions if this is required," Mr Lewinsky said.

Any additional steps by the EPA to ensure the suitability of the land for development would be welcome.

A former worker involved in decontamination of the site believes the EPA test results don't tell the full story.

"They might show that there are low levels of a range of contaminants, but the problem is the cumulative effect of the build-up of all these different materials."

The EPA has refused to release the full report, prompting Greens MP Colleen Hartland to lodge a freedom of information request.

Ms Hartland told the Weekly earlier this year there were still unanswered questions about the site that needed to be put to rest.

KEILOR VILLAGE DETAILS REVEALED

Brimbank Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/keilor-village-details-revealed/2288775.aspx>

Residents can have their say on the future of Keilor Village following Brimbank Council's unveiling of details of its vision for the area.

The document was developed by the council following a public consultation exercise which started in 2008 and was designed to guide any new development in the village centre.

Residents had indicated that they wanted to preserve the character of the village area, which includes a neighbourhood centre, a line of trees along the Old Calder Highway and surrounding residential and open-space areas.

A draft document, presented to the community last November and December, led to residents also calling for improved highway signage and closed-circuit television cameras to be installed along the main shopping strips on the Old Calder Highway.

Many of the submissions were taken on board by council and included in the final draft of the document.

Council last week released the final document for further public comment.

Keilor resident Virginia Tachos said she was pleased the "village feel" would be retained. But she said there needed to be specific outlines to upgrade sports facilities in the area.

"The facilities being used by Keilor Football Club are quite poor and I often hear people say they are ashamed of the club rooms and shower facilities," she said.

"We need a proper sporting hub that can be used by all clubs in the area."

WALK A WHILE

Brimbank Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/walk-a-while/2288778.aspx>

North-West residents struggling to cope with stress and weight problems are being encouraged to join Tara Henderson, Didimo Tonelli and Ursula Tonelli for a walk in the park.

An initiative of the Heart Foundation and Bushwalking Victoria, the Green Walks in the Park program is designed to encourage people to get active and make the most of their local environment.

Brimbank residents can enjoy two free, guided walks at Brimbank Park, Keilor East, on October 13.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



The first walk will start at 10.30am and take 45 minutes; the second will pick up after the first one and take about one hour.

Heart Foundation Victoria chief executive Kathy Bell recommends that people engage in brisk walk for at least 30 minutes each day.

"Walking is a form of physical activity that most people can do as part of everyday life, irrespective of age, weight, health issues or ability," she says.

"Walking in green spaces can help to reduce stress, and walking with a group helps develop social, environmental and personal skills. That's a great form of motivation to walk on a regular basis."

Registration will be at the Brimbank Park visitor centre from 10am on the day.

HELP ANSWERING AGEING'S DEMANDS

Brimbank Weekly— 13th September 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/help-answering-ageings-demands/2288767.aspx>

Finding a loved one in the grip of Alzheimer's disease is never easy, but it's not a struggle that needs to be endured alone.

Jennifer Blake's parents, Jean and Keith Travis, had retired to Rosebud, but in their mid-70s they decided to move to Taylors Hill to be closer to family once again.

When the Kealba resident's mother began showing signs of confusion in 2006, she worried about what might be happening.

"She had been working in the local op shop for more than 20 years, but they started to notice she was forgetting things," Mrs Blake said.

"She had always been a happy person and a very active person, but she began to lose interest in things."

As time wore on her mother became increasingly forgetful and spent long periods lost in the past. Doctors diagnosed Alzheimer's disease.

Mrs Blake said sufferers often sensed themselves that something was wrong and the diagnosis helped them explain what was happening.

But her mother was one of those with the disease who didn't realise anything was wrong.

Her father did his best to provide care, but the increased pressures took a toll on his own health.

"He found it hard, he wasn't really accepting it either."

During a spell in hospital for her father, Mrs Blake arranged for her mother to go in for respite care at an aged-care home. By the time her father was ready to return home, he felt it unfair to disturb her newly settled pattern.

By this stage, Mrs Blake had made contact with Alzheimer's Australia, the peak body providing support and advocacy for the 257,000 Australians living with dementia.

She said the organisation provided invaluable support throughout that difficult period, through general information and a series of courses.

"I realised how many people were in that situation, too," she said.

"I would really recommend people be in touch with [Alzheimer's Australia] and learn as much as they can about this; it really helps you through."

Mrs Blake continued visiting her mother and grew to accept her condition, noting that she often seemed quite happy.

Her mother finally lost her battle with dementia and died last year.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Mrs Blake's situation is far from unusual. An estimated 1633 people are living with dementia in Brimbank.

Dementia Awareness Week (September 16-26) is highlighting the fact there is no cure for dementia, the third-main cause of death of Australians.

HEROIN BACK WITH A VENGEANCE

Brimbank Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/heroin-back-with-a-vengeance/2288774.aspx>

Health experts are calling for more full-time drug and alcohol support services in the North-West to reduce alarming rates of heroin overdose.

The most-recent Ambulance Victoria statistics show Brimbank had the third-highest rate of heroin overdoses attended by paramedics in Victoria.

In 2009-10, there were 111 overdoses during the year, compared to 87 in 2008-09.

Heroin overdose attendances by paramedics were also up in Melton Shire, with 23 in 2009-10 compared to 10 in 2008-09.

The Stepping Up consortium, which runs the only drug and alcohol support service in Melton, has seen about 200 people from the area since opening in January.

General manager Shelley Cross said she was initially worried the four-year pilot project wouldn't reach client targets set by the Department of Health.

But the service has already surpassed that target.

She said the demand for additional services was strong in high-growth areas like Melton.

Team leader Raymond Beacham said there was a need for more full-time services.

"We're starting to see more clients come in from Caroline Springs and most of our clients use more than one substance," he said.

"Melton never really had full-time drug and alcohol services until we came in and it would make it a lot easier for people to access support if there were more full-time services around."

Mr Beacham said services provided education to drug users so they were more aware of what they were injecting.

"Most overdoses are accidental and they often occur because drug users don't know the strength of what they are using or they're mixing substances.

"People who overdose from drugs are at risk of developing brain damage and can die from it."

Family members of overdose victims reflected on their loss on Overdose Awareness Day on August 31.

Drug and alcohol support service providers, like Health Works in Footscray, held ceremonies to remember people who died of an overdose, as well as those who live with permanent injuries.

Head of clinical services at Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre in Fitzroy, Dr Matthew Frei, said substance addictions could be associated with conditions like depression and required medical treatment.

"There is a certain stigma attached to drug users and people who die from overdose, but we need to encourage drug users to seek treatment to reduce harm to the individual and the community," Dr Frei said.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



FENCE SUNSHINE PLAY AREA FOR SAFETY - MUMS

Brimbank Leader – 11th September 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/fence-play-area-for-safety-mums-fbready/>

A group of Sunshine mothers is urging Brimbank Council to fast-track fencing a playground in a popular off-leash dog park.

Tom O'Brien Reserve opened in July with \$300,000 of developments, including a new playground.

The council said it had plans to build a fence to separate the two areas, but work would not be considered until next year's budget.

Sunshine mother Nadene Tensen frequents the Matthews Ave Park with a one-year-old, and said it was popular with local families. "It's brand new and beautiful but we just assumed there would be a fence around the playground as there are dogs running around everywhere," she said.

"The dogs are entitled to be there but parents would feel safer if it was built sooner than next year."

Their call comes in the wake of a fatal dog attack on Ayen Chol in St Albans last month.

The four-year-old was mauled to death by a pit bull-cross.

"The attack is in the forefront of parents' minds at the moment," Ms Tensen said. "I think we would feel safer knowing there was a fence around the playground."

Infrastructure and environment general manager Paul Younis said the council was reviewing how to separate dogs from playgrounds.

There are 21 off-leash dog parks in Brimbank. Dogs are not permitted within 10m of playgrounds, barbecues or picnic areas, with a \$250 fine for offenders.

KEILOR BUTCHERS MAKE THE CUT

Brimbank Leader – 9th September 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/keilor-butchers-make-the-cut-fbready/>

Two budding Brimbank butchers have shown they make the grade when it comes to meat.

Thomas James and Jake Kenyon, both 17, are apprentices at Keilor Continental Butchers.

The pair took home gold and bronze medals, respectively, at a butchery competition at the William Angliss Institute last month. Thomas is a fourth-generation butcher. His father, Len James, who owns and runs Keilor Continental Butchers, said the family had been in the meat industry for 95 years.

"They have come on in leaps and bounds, and I am very proud of them both," he said.

As part of the competition, apprentices were supplied with various cuts of meat and asked to produce products in an efficient manner with no excessive waste. Institute meat processing senior educator Ivon Shell said: "These students are still in only their second year of their apprenticeships but their finished products were innovative, well displayed and produced with the highest grade of tradesmanship."

The pair will be presented with their medals and cheque at an award night on October 5.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



HOBSONS BAY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE

Hobsons Bay Leader – 15th August 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/you-dont-have-to-be-alone/>

Caring for her father since he was diagnosed with dementia six years ago has been a steep learning curve for Altona North's Mina Sapounakis.

In the lead-up to Dementia Awareness Week, which runs from September 16 to 26, Ms Sapounakis has shared her experiences in a bid to help others.

Ms Sapounakis said her father, Nick, was diagnosed only after someone from outside the family noticed changes in his behaviour.

"Sometimes love is blind in a lot of different ways," she said.

"(Dad) was a character as it was, he would carry on and ... we didn't know anything unusual had happened."

Now in his early 80s, Mr Sapounakis' condition has slowly deteriorated. But the family is committed to keeping him at home rather than putting him in care.

"Myself and my brother have said to my mum to let us know if it gets to the stage when it's too much to handle because we see the stress she's under," Ms Sapounakis said.

"It's quite horrible for us, seeing what they're going through.

"He tries his best ... it's just a horrible thing to happen to someone you care about."

A small device with emergency call buttons and a GPS tracker has made life a little easier.

The family signed up to the Safe2Walk program, which provides a trackable device for Mr Sapounakis to wear in case he gets lost or wanders away.

For Ms Sapounakis and her mother, the device provides invaluable peace of mind.

"If he does wander off from the house, which has happened, (mum) would ring me up in a panic and I could look it up at the computer and tell her where he was," Ms Sapounakis said.

"This put mum's mind at ease a lot and gives her a bit more relaxation about it."

Ms Sapounakis believes information about support and resources for those grappling with such problems must be made more readily available, especially to Hobsons Bay's large migrant community.

"I think the biggest issue is getting it out in other languages," she said.

Alzheimer's Australia estimates about 1086 Hobsons Bay people are living with dementia, with the number of cases predicted to increase 256 per cent to 3862 by 2050.

For more information about Dementia Awareness Week or Alzheimer's Australia, visit alzheimers.org.au or call the National Dementia Helpline on 1800 100 500.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



INCLUSION IN MELBOURNE'S WEST

Star Online– 14th August 2011

<http://www.starobserver.com.au/news/2011/09/14/inclusion-in-melbourne%E2%80%99s-west/61673>

Hobsons Bay Council in Melbourne's west has appointed its first LGBTI community advisory group.

Group chair Cr Tony Briffa said council had received 15 nominations from community members and organisations to advocate for the local LGBTI community.

"The committee will advise the council of the needs and interests of the GLBTIQ community within Hobsons Bay, contribute to the development of policies and assist in the review and evaluation of council services," Briffa said.

"It is wonderful that the GLBTIQ Advisory Committee has been established as it will promote understanding of the issues facing the GLBTIQ community and enhance community pride and a sense of belonging."

The committee was announced at a council meeting last week and includes Adrian Masterman-Smith, Asiel Yair Adan Sanchez, Danae Gibson, Dominic Smith, Eilis Hughes, Gai Mooney, Lisa King, Michael O'Hanlon, Russell Brown and Wayne Elliott.

Committee members will serve for a period of three years.

Hobsons Bay Mayor Michael Raffoul welcomed the new group as one of several groups in the council area working for better inclusion of residents.

"We were particularly impressed with the quality of the applicants for the advisory group," Raffoul said.

"Hobsons Bay actively celebrates its diversity and the council recognises the importance of ensuring that our community is all the better for this inclusiveness."

Hobsons Bay Council has undertaken a number of LGBTI initiatives in recent years. The area, which takes in Altona, Laverton and Williamstown, has hosted events for Melbourne queer cultural festival Midsumma.

In 2010 Briffa, an outspoken advocate for intersex rights, led an inter-council liaison group on LGBTI issues and released a report including recommendations that local libraries stock LGBTI literature and council staff receive diversity training.

Hobsons Bay Council has also funded the development of a rainbow families resource for primary school students.

TRUCK TRAFFIC ANGER RISES

Hobsons Bay Leader– 14th August 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/truck-traffic-anger-rises/>

Frustration over the number of trucks in residential streets will spill over at the West Gate Ramps Coalition community rally this Sunday.

Representatives from LeadWest, the Transport Workers Union, Yarraville Community Centre and Maribyrnong Truck Action Group will take to the stage to lobby the State Government to provide funding for the West Gate truck ramps.

The ramps were first proposed by Sir Rod Eddington in 2008 to create a route for trucks that would bypass residential areas, with exits and entries from the West Gate Freeway to take them directly to the port via Hyde St and Whitehall St.

The rally follows the release of VicRoads truck traffic counts for 2011.

VicRoads Metro North West regional director Nial Finegan said the traffic counts showed truck curfews were working to reduce truck numbers on the roads.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



But while the counts showed the numbers had fallen 25 per cent in Hudsons Rd east of Hall St, in Spotswood, since the curfew was introduced in 2002, they had risen 42 per cent on North Rd east of Melbourne Rd in Newport and 46 per cent on Simcock Ave east of Hall St in Spotswood. There has also been a 19 per cent increase on Hyde St east of Francis St in Spotswood and an 8 per cent decrease in truck numbers on Hudsons Rd west of Hall St.

"They're (VicRoads) saying the numbers have decreased when in fact their own evidence shows otherwise," Less Trucks for Moore spokesman Andres Pineros said.

The State Government did not respond to Leader inquiries before deadline.

The Ramps Coalition community rally will be at 11am, Sunday, September 18 at Yarraville Gardens.

CALL TO ARMS FOR WOMEN

Hobson Bay Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/williamstown-altona-laverton/313/story/140386.html>

Hobsons Bay City Council is now calling for nominations to join the Women's Advisory Committee and provide advice to the council on how to achieve greater participation of women in leadership roles and celebrate women in the community.

Women's Charter Champion Cr Luba Grigorovitch said the committee will advise the council on issues impacting women's participation in the community.

"This committee stems from last year's Women's Forum, convened by the council during 2010 – the Year of Women in Local Government, and will work to ensure council policies meet women's needs and aspirations and promote a positive image of women as leaders within the Hobsons Bay municipality," Cr Grigorovitch said.

"Membership of the Women's Advisory Committee will be appointed by the council, and comprise of an open membership of a term of 12 months.

"Meeting times will be determined by the committee.

"I would urge all women, regardless of their age or background to get involved and make sure their voices are heard."

For a nomination form or copy of the committee's Terms of Reference, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or call 9932 1000. Nominations close on Friday 23 September 2011.

COUNCIL IN KOSKY CHORUS

Hobson Bay Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/williamstown-altona-laverton/313/story/140380.html>

Hobsons Bay Councillors have joined a chorus of people wishing former Altona MP Lynne Kosky a speedy recovery, after she was admitted to hospital with a life threatening blood infection.

Star understands Ms Kosky, who was rushed to hospital following a ski trip with her son, awoke last Thursday after being sedated for more than a week.

Spokesperson for the family and former ministerial colleague Peter Batchelor told Star Ms Kosky's condition was improving each day and she was responding well to treatment.

"She's keen to commence the physio which will help return strength to her arms and legs," Mr Batchelor said.

"The medical team are pleased with her progress."

Last month Ms Kosky had an operation to treat breast cancer – but Mr Batchelor said it was unclear at this stage whether her infection was caused by the operation.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



“(Her family) are just relieved that she’s off sedation and ventilation,” he said.

“Lynne is in good spirits and appreciates the cards and well wishes being sent to the hospital and her home.”

Councillor Angela Altair said that everyone at the council was thinking of Ms Kosky.

“I know everybody would join me and the council in sending our best wishes for a speedy recovery,” Cr Altair said.

“Obviously we send our best wishes to her family – I can’t imagine what sort of awful times they’re all going through.”

Ms Kosky was the Member for Altona from 1996 and Minister for Public Transport from 2006 but retired from politics in 2010 citing health issues within her family and the subsequent need to spend more time with them.

RESTAURANT FOOD BREACHES

Hobson Bay Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/williamstown-altona-laverton/313/story/140385.html>

Restaurants in Hobsons Bay have been convicted and fined more than \$30,000 over the past 14 months for breaching food safety laws.

According to a register of convictions that lists Victorian eateries, three businesses in Hobsons Bay have been named for breaching the laws.

Sunny Phong Bakery in Altona North featured twice on the list and were fined \$12,000 for failing to maintain a clean food premises, failing to store food correctly and for failing to take all practicable measures to eradicate and prevent pests on the food premises.

Foam Booth Carwash and Café was fined \$1000 in March this year for failing to register the premises as a food premises with the council.

So n So’s Takeaway in Laverton was fined a whopping \$18,000 in March this year for a number of offences including failing to store food at the appropriate temperature, failing to ensure that the food handlers do not sneeze, blow or cough over unprotected food or surfaces and failing to maintain a supply of warm running water and soap at the hand wash facility.

Of the list, Hobsons Bay was the second most common municipality named, with the City of Melbourne the most prominent area on the list.

According to the Food Act, convictions will remain named on the register for 12 months.

LAVERTON ARTS INITIATIVE GETS A STAMP

Hobson Bay Leader– 13th September 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/laverton-arts-initiative-gets-a-stamp/>

A community arts hub will be created in Laverton in a bid to revitalise the area, which is home to a growing artist population.

Hobsons Bay Council has leased the old Laverton Post Office on Woods St and will establish a shop-front arts hub for artists, exhibitions and performances.

The hub will become a base for the Laverton Arts Forum and will also be used for the Art in Public Places exhibition, Platform Arts, the Laverton Youth Arts Prize and Street SmART.

A council report says “the arts have made an important contribution to community renewal in Laverton” and the arts hub would help revitalise the area “through the creative reuse of an existing building”.

Cr John Hogg said the arts hub would inject more life into the community and provide an outlet for people to improve skills.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Cr Luba Grigorovitch said the hub would contribute to the “great things happening in Laverton now”.

And the director of Newport’s art hub, The Substation, has praised the proposal. Jeremy Gaden said the plan was a “wonderful initiative” and one that should be copied by other councils.

“It’s quite a progressive move by council,” Mr Gaden said. “It’s a proven method for helping areas get ahead.”

He said the hub would help more people in the community access arts at a grassroots level.

The old post office requires some basic improvements such as an external ramp, ground-floor toilet, security features and signage.

These are expected to cost about \$20,000, but the council has negotiated a rent-free period until January to help offset the cost.

All rent and outgoing expenses will come out of the 2011-12 Arts, Events and Tourism operating budget.

NEW PLANS FOR NEWPORT TIMBER YARDS

Hobsons Bay Leader – 12th September 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/new-plans-for-newport-timber-yards/>

The developer behind a plan to turn the old Newport timber yards into a multi-storey residential development has lodged a new application with Hobsons Bay Council.

Earlier plans for a 40-dwelling development on the Paine St site were rejected by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in April, but VCAT member Dalia Cook left the door open for an amended proposal, saying the development was

“high-quality”, of “appropriate scale and form” and would not detract from the heritage value of the area.

Ms Cook did not object to the density, but wanted the facades “reworked”. Peter Cahill of Domain Hill Property Group now hopes the changed plans - which include 43-dwellings - will be approved by the council, but a local residents’ group is still opposed to the plan.

Protect Newport spokesman Anthony Simmons said the new proposal did not appear to be much different from the original and had actually increased its possible maximum occupancy.

“It’s disappointing because there was the opportunity for the developer to take on the feedback from VCAT and we don’t believe he’s done that,” Mr Simmons said.

“The development has not been scaled down as much as we would have expected.

“The whole building is now housing more people than before.”

But Mr Cahill said he had taken VCAT’s suggestions on board. “We have done our best to redesign, to address the concerns addressed by VCAT,” Mr Cahill said.

“The result is a group of townhouses which is more conservative in its design and more domestic in its appearance.”

Mr Cahill said the development “moved away from more box form to a design which reads like a group of town houses than a block building”.

A spokeswoman for Western Metropolitan Liberal MP Bernie Finn said Mr Finn had last month written to Planning Minister Matthew Guy regarding residents’ concerns over the proposed development.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



MARIBRYNONG

MP WANTS UPGRADES TO WESTERN HOSPITAL

Maribyrnong Leader— 15th September 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/mp-wants-upgrades-to-western-hospital/>

The member for Western Metropolitan Region, Bernie Finn, has declared the community will no longer tolerate the poor state of the Western Hospital.

After an official tour of Western Hospital with management staff late last month, Mr Finn was critical of parking deficiencies, odours and the general maintenance of the hospital, and tabled his experience in Parliament last week before calling on the Health Minister to extend the Western Hospital.

Mr Finn said he witnessed specialists consulting with each other in the corridor due to a lack of office space.

Since the hospital's construction in 1953, Mr Finn said, the building had been barely touched.

"A great deal of money has been spent on Sunshine (hospital) but Footscray is the poor cousin," he said.

"The problem we've (the west) had for far too long is we've just copped this, we've just accepted it.

"I'm going to give the health minister all the information he needs to rectify the situation."

Mr Finn said the former Footscray Psychiatric Centre, near the hospital, could help alleviate pressure on the hospital if it was refurbished.

Western Health CEO Kathryn Cook said it was clear that facilities across Western Health sites were not sufficient to cope with the present and future growth.

NO ONE IMPRESSED BY 'DISAPPEARING' TRICK

Maribyrnong Weekly— 14th September 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/noone-impressed-by-disappearing-trick/2290706.aspx>

Demolishing the already-bulging Irving Street car park at Footscray railway station will hurt trade and inconvenience commuters, traders say.

They are calling for an urgent re-think on removing close to 200 parking spots at the station to make way for two new rail tracks as part of the \$4.3billion Regional Rail Link.

Footscray Traders Association president Grant Miles says the total number of lost car park spaces is 339, not the 166 a Regional Rail Link Authority study claims, once those removed from surrounding streets are added.

The study, seen by the Weekly, acknowledges the Irving Street car park is "above capacity" and predominantly used by commuters.

A new car park will be built at West Footscray station, yet 17per cent of commuters parking at Hyde and Irving street car parks live in West Footscray or Tottenham.

Business in Footscray would "decrease marginally", the study concluded, but increased patronage over the next decade would bring more shoppers to Footscray.

Ben Coyle, of the Dancing Dog Cafe, said commuters would still try and park close to the station rather than drive to West Footscray.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"By pushing commuters out you lose car parking that would have been used by shoppers," he said.

Regional Rail Link Community Reference Group representative Hugh Oates said: "I find it difficult to see that additional parking spaces at West Footscray are going to account for loss of parking in Footscray."

Cr John Cumming said removing the car park would not "be a positive for Footscray" and would shift the burden on to the council.

"They're simply replacing the same number of car parks at a minimal cost. Spaces are at a premium in Footscray so what they are doing is making savings at our expense."

Earlier this year, Planning Minister Matthew Guy told the Geelong Advertiser: "I don't think it would be acceptable to the government to start removing commuter car parks."

TRUCK COUNT REVS UP MOORE ACTION GROUP

Maribyrnong Weekly– 14th September 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/truck-count-revs-up-moore-action-group/2290709.aspx>

Truck traffic on Moore Street in Footscray has more than doubled in the past five years and residents are calling for urgent action.

Annual truck counts were released by VicRoads last week after local politicians raised concerns in Parliament that the figures were being withheld, despite financial contributions from Maribyrnong Council to have them collected.

The 2011 counts show a 10per cent increase in the average weekday truck traffic over a 24-hour period. The number of trucks has risen to 2271 in this year's count,

compared to 2233 last year and almost double the count of 1214 in 2006. The count of all other vehicles rose marginally, from 23,330 to 23,371.

Truck traffic on Somerville Road, east of Williamstown Road, increased by more than 12per cent, to 2187 trucks a day.

Less Trucks for Moore spokesman Andres Pineros said: "Last year, VicRoads was embarrassed by the increase in truck numbers so in 2011 they are prepared to mislead the public. VicRoads' own evidence clearly shows that streets without curfews are suffering the most.

"If curfews work, then I challenge VicRoads to put the money where their mouth is and introduce curfews immediately on Moore and Buckley streets." VicRoads metropolitan north west regional director Nial Finegan said: "VicRoads has no plans to introduce truck restrictions on Moore Street."

Less Trucks for Moore is one of the parties that has joined forces under the banner of the Westgate Ramps Coalition to have the previous Labor government's \$380 million truck action plan put back on the table. The coalition includes members of residents' groups, schools, political parties, local government, the transport industry and a developer. It is pushing for measures to alleviate truck congestion in the inner west.

Transport Minister Terry Mulder's office did not respond to a request for comment.

The coalition will hold a rally at Yarraville Gardens, corner Hyde Street and Somerville Road, at 11am on Sunday.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



FESTA FALLS OVER AS COUNCIL TRIPS

Maribyrnong Weekly – 14th September 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/festa-falls-over-as-council-trips/2290704.aspx>

The impasse made it impossible to plan and get permits for the festival.

Exclusive

Internal bungling at Maribyrnong Council led to this year's East Meets West Lunar New Year Festival being derailed.

A seven-month-long freedom-of-information investigation by the Weekly revealed mismanagement that caused Footscray's Vietnamese community to be deeply hurt when the 20-year-old festival was not held this year.

The suspension followed months of blame-shifting between council and the Footscray Asian Business Association (FABA) over food handling, public safety, the festival's cultural content and the number of stall-holders from outside the municipality.

Last February, the Weekly first attempted to find out what had happened through an FOI application.

The council denied access to 64 pages of documents and months of legal wrangling followed to find out what the council was trying to hide from ratepayers.

After more documents were released following an appeal through the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, it can be revealed staff botched an attempt to manage the festival, while the council failed to communicate its intent to its own staff, festival organisers and the community.

Negotiations about organising this year's festival went nowhere, and on October 12 FABA wrote to the council with three options: no festival, a festival "organised in full" by the council, or a \$77,250 council contribution.

At its October meeting, the council resolved it would take over planning and management of the 2011 event.

But in a November 24 email to FABA, a council officer denied this was its intent. The impasse made it impossible to plan and get permits for the festival, which was scheduled to be held on January 16 - as close as possible to the Lunar New Year dates of February 2-7.

The only explanation as to why the festival did not go ahead was in a comment by then senior manager Andrew Day, who said an organising committee led by the council "could not be formed with enough time to adequately plan the 2011 event".

Documents obtained by the Weekly, including communication between council staff, senior management and FABA, show:

- A report to council senior managers, which forms the basis for the report to councillors for their decision in chambers, clearly shows they preferred the option of managing the festival.

- A council officer reported to councillors on December 6 that FABA had agreed to a "demarcation" of the council's and FABA's roles in organising the 2011 festival, despite a November 30 letter from FABA rejecting the assertion made days earlier that the council did not intend to manage the event.

- Festival organisers were not officially informed until December 17 that the 2011 Lunar Festival would not go ahead in January, despite requests as late as November 19 for "clarification on the proposed way forward".

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



■The outcomes of meetings between council staff and FABA were verbal only before a complete breakdown in communication between the council and FABA, to the point where one-on-one meetings were suggested.

■Council wanted to separate the festival's trader element from its cultural element to reduce the "urgency of running a trader festival in January".

As part of the council's plan to brand Maribyrnong a "festival city", it recently doled out \$285,000 in grants to help local organisations stage a range of cultural and artistic festivals and events.

The East Meets West Lunar New Year Festival was one of the recipients of grants for a 2012 festival, honouring a pledge by mayor Sarah Carter that it would return.

FABA president Binh Le said: "I think this information shows the frustration FABA has had in past dealings with Maribyrnong City Council regarding the organisation of the Lunar Festival, and reveals to the wider community the reasons the festival did not go ahead in 2011.

"However, considering changes to the [council's] management structure, FABA has decided to put the past behind us. We are quite prepared to work hard with [the council] to ensure Lunar Festival 2012 is, as it has been, the largest and most culturally significant festival in all of Maribyrnong."

FROM LIQUID TO GEL, NOW LIQUIDITY

Maribyrnong Weekly– 14th September 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/from-liquid-to-gel-now-liquidity/2290707.aspx>

West Footscray's Belinda Cook has dabbled in making perfumes and oils for a few years, but it was a brush with airport security that turned her hobby into a business.

"I had to throw out a 100ml perfume I'd just purchased at the airport because it was in my carry-on baggage and you can't take liquids on the plane.

"It was an expensive lesson."

Necessity, or in this case security, was the mother of invention; and the idea to make perfume gels was born.

It's now turned into a home-based business called BFRagrances.

Ms Cook is one of a host of artisans who will have stalls at his month's Maribyrnong Makers Market.

The market is a not-for-profit craft market run by a volunteer group to provide an outlet for artists and craftspeople to display their wares and talents without being crippled by high shop rents.

Ms Cook says the market is a chance for people to meet the makers, touch, feel and smell their creations while supporting local artisans.

The market will be held at the corner of Gamon and Mackay streets, Seddon, from 9.30am-3.30pm on Saturday.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



LIQUOR STORES LINKED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Maribyrnong Weekly– 14th September 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/liquor-stores-linked-to-domestic-violence/2290710.aspx>

Reducing the number of bottle shops in Footscray could have a direct effect on assault-related hospital admissions and the rate of chronic disease, new research has found.

Research fellow Michael Livingston, of Eastern Health's Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, has revealed links between the density of alcohol outlets and the number of assault-related hospital admissions.

His analysis of liquor licensing, hospitalisation and demographic data found:

■A 10per cent rise in packaged liquor outlets could increase assault rates by 0.8 per cent.

■A 10per cent rise in the rate of packaged licences increased hospital admissions by 1.9 per cent.

"Packaged liquor outlets are the key driver. Three-quarters of the alcohol we drink comes from bottle shops," Mr Livingston said.

"Pubs have a role to play, but bottle shops were linked to higher rates of domestic violence, chronic disease and general disease."

Within Footscray, there are six bottle shops, nine hotels with a general or late-night licence which allows for the sale of packaged liquor, and seven clubs licensed to sell packaged liquor to members. There are eight outlets with licences to sell packaged liquor within the alcohol-exclusion zone, where public drinking is banned. The zone is bordered by Donald, Moore, Irving and French streets.

Maribyrnong Council this year voted not to oppose a liquor licence request by an IGA supermarket in central Footscray, despite concerns raised by council officers and local police about public drinking leading to violence and nuisance behaviour in the Footscray CBD.

Changes to planning permits that required new bottle shops to apply for council planning approval were a "step in the right direction", Mr Livingston said.

But the question was whether councils were aware of the latest research or had the political will to reject inappropriate applications and back that decision in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal if the applicant appealed.

ROOMING HOUSE ALERT IN MARIBYRNONG

Maribyrnong Leader– 13th September 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/rooming-house-alert-in-maribyrnong/>

A fire in Footscray has raised alarm about the safety of the many illegal rooming houses in Maribyrnong.

Seven people were evacuated from what is thought to be an illegal rooming house in Nicholson St on Sunday, September 4, after a fire started in the building next door.

After the fire started at about 1.25am, flames shot through the roof and windows of the first floor of the Paisley St building, which housed a hairdressers and a drycleaner in the lower level.

"Something had been left turned on in the hairdressers, materials came into contact with a hot object and that's how the fire started and it spread upstairs to a vacant property where no one lives," MFB Commander Frank Besanko said.

He said the fire raised concerns about the number of illegal rooming houses in Maribyrnong.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



While there are 61 rooming houses registered in Maribyrnong, 80 unregistered rooming houses are being investigated by the council.

Maribyrnong Council Corporate Services general manager Stephen Wall said the council first learnt of the alleged rooming house in Nicholson St earlier this year.

An inspection followed and the owners were asked to bring the building up to commercial building standard, he said.

Mr Wall said council officers made a follow-up inspection on August 23 and discovered that the building had been vacated.

When they inspected the building again on Monday, September 5, following the fire, Mr Wall said "the building was again vacated and there was no evidence of occupation that could trigger prosecution by council".

ROSS SLAMS PERMITS

Maribyrnong Star – 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/footscray-yarraville/313/story/140406.html>

Maribyrnong's Citizen of the Year has accused council officers of recommending planning permits to the detriment of ratepayers.

Maribyrnong resident Alan Ross said council officers were increasingly recommending that councillors issue planning permits to developments that had flouted planning guidelines and were inconsistent with neighbourhood character, attracting many objections from neighbours and other residents.

Mr Ross said council officers were bending to the wishes of "greedy developers" and had also approved planning applications that frequently called for a reduction or waiver in car parking.

This year alone, council officers have recommended the council approve nine three storey-plus developments, including:

A \$10 million development for six and seven storey buildings along Ballarat Rd, Footscray, comprising 120 apartments;

A \$5 million development for a four-storey building along Victoria St, Footscray, housing 20 apartments;

Eight one-bedroom apartments over three storeys along Williamstown Rd; and

A \$6 million development for a three-storey building, with 37 apartments along Francis St, Yarraville that attracted 80 objections.

Maribyrnong City Council voted down three of the planning applications.

Mr Ross said he was also unimpressed at councillors who voted in favour of these developments because they fear that the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal will grant a permit if they don't.

Mr Ross has been a member of the Maribyrnong Residents Association for the past 29 years and has been instrumental in protecting a variety of local community landmarks from over-development, such as Pipemaker's Park and Fishers Stables.

He has also campaigned tirelessly to improve the amount of public open space in the municipality, and was also a passionate advocate against the council's decision to grant a permit for a licensed restaurant and café along the Maribyrnong River earlier this year.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



STATE IN HEALTH SHOCK

Maribyrnong Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/footscray-yarraville/313/story/140403.html>

The State Government is developing a Health Capital and Resources Plan to identify the health infrastructure needs across Victoria.

A spokesperson for State Health Minister David Davis told Star last week the plan would take into account hospitals in the West, including Footscray's Western Hospital.

"Over the past 11 years, Victoria's health system has not been properly planned to take into account the growth and ageing of the population, as well as ageing infrastructure," the spokesperson said.

"This issue is particularly apparent for growth areas such as western metropolitan Melbourne, a fact the Minister saw for himself when he visited Footscray Hospital in March.

"The leader of the opposition Daniel Andrews, as Health Minister was (also) aware of the need for improvements to dental service infrastructure at Western Region Health Centre for a number of years.

"Daniel Andrews as Health Minister failed to plan for the future.

"The Victorian Coalition Government has taken action to turn around Labor's mismanagement by launching the Victorian Health Priorities Framework, which uses the latest population data to inform health planning."

The comments come two weeks after Liberal MP Bernie Finn visited Western Hospital to draw up a priority list of works to present to Mr Davis.

Mr Finn was left staggered by the level of neglect at the hospital, including the lack of parking, the stench coming up through the first level from pipes underneath the floor, patients who had come straight from surgery sharing lifts with everyone else, crowded working spaces and doctors and specialists consulting in hallways because there's no available room.

Mr Finn detailed his experience in Parliament, and called on the Health Minister to build a new hospital building for Western Hospital.

He also suggested refurbishing the former Footscray Psychiatric Centre across the road from the hospital – an unoccupied grey four-storey building – as a short term measure to help the hospital.

BRAKE THE TRUCKS

Maribyrnong Leader– 13th September 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/brake-the-trucks/>

Frustration over trucks in residential streets will spill over at the Westgate Ramps Coalition community rally this Sunday.

Representatives from LeadWest, the TWU and community will take the stage to lobby the State Government for funding for the West Gate truck ramps proposed by Sir Rod Eddington in 2008.

Mayor Sarah Carter said the Hyde St connection, which was associated with the plan, would substantially reduce the number of trucks using Francis St and Somerville Rd by about 70 per cent - 5000 fewer trucks each week day.

"Because of the significant social, environmental and economic benefits associated with the proposed Truck Action Plan, council considers this project to be of national significance and seeks Government support ... "

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Meanwhile, VicRoads regional director Nial Finegan said 2011 traffic counts showed truck curfews were working to reduce truck numbers.

But while the counts showed that truck volumes were down 46 per cent on Francis St east of Williamstown Rd in the past nine years and by 84 per cent west of Williamstown Rd during curfew times, there was a staggering 258 per cent increase on Moore St in the past five years.

There has also been a 63 per cent increase on Buckley St and a 41 per cent increase on Somerville Rd (east of Williamstown Rd) in the past nine years. "They're (VicRoads) saying the numbers have decreased when their own evidence shows otherwise," Less Trucks for Moore spokesman Andres Pineros said.

The rally is at 11am, Sunday, September 18, at Yarraville Gardens.

BACK TO SCHOOL FOR HEALTH MINISTER

Maribyrnong Leader– 10th September 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/back-to-school-for-health-minister/>

The Federal Member for Geelong East Nicola Roxon visited Wembley Primary School last week.

Ms Roxon was one of 185 business, sport and community leaders who took part in the 10th annual Principal for a Day event, organised by Australian Council for Educational Research.

The health minister said the experience gave her an insight into the huge efforts of staff.

"I have even more knowledge and respect for the complex and challenging work school staff do," she said.

"My favourite part was the Junior School Council and being able to listen to how the students and teachers are working together to make sure the school experience is enjoyable for everyone."

RAIL LINK TENDER

Maribyrnong Star– 8th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/footscray-yarraville/312/story/140143.html>

The Regional Rail Link Authority has shortlisted tenders to deliver the Southern Cross Station to Footscray stage of the Regional Rail Link.

Integrate Rail and Leighton Contractors, Downer EDI, SMEC & Mott MacDonald are in the ring to deliver the project – which includes realigning and upgrading the existing track and building two lines.

Federal Infrastructure and Transport Minister Anthony Albanese said the short-listing for the second major package of works represents another major milestone in the RRL project.

"Each of these two bidders will now be invited to develop and submit fully costed proposals, with the final contract expected to be awarded next year," Mr Albanese said.

Mr Mulder said the extensive package of work to be delivered by the successful consortium will transform the movement of regional trains through Melbourne's inner West.

"Once fully completed, the Regional Rail Link will become metropolitan Melbourne's first major new rail line in 80 years, providing capacity for up to 9000 additional passengers during peak hour," he said.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



BURGS ON THE RISE

Maribyrnong Star – 8th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/footscray-yarraville/312/story/140136.html>

Home burglaries have nearly doubled in the past financial year, contributing to a 7.5 per cent crime spike across the City of Maribyrnong.

The latest Victoria Police crime statistics reveal residential burglaries have jumped 46.5 per cent from the 2009-10 financial year to the 2010-11 financial year, with a total 876 home burglaries reported in the last 12 months.

There have also been significant increases in robberies (up 32.6 per cent) and theft from motor vehicles (22.9 per cent).

On the flip side, car thefts have gone down by 4.5 per cent.

Footscray Police Inspector Tony Long admitted police continued to be challenged by the increasing crime rate.

“Both crimes against the person and crimes against property have risen significantly when compared to the previous year,” he said.

“Significant effort has been directed at halting these increases, and progress has been made.

“Both police service area and divisional resources have been focused on trouble areas, with a view to prevent offences and detect offenders.”

The statistics follow a range of high visibility public order and crime prevention operations across the municipality.

Last month, police from the Transit Police and the Operations Response Unit conducted weapons and drugs searches at Footscray train station.

Meanwhile, the Footscray CBD CCTV system is up and running.

“The system has been a great benefit to police, already providing evidence to support prosecutions and allowing us to direct resources to incidents occurring within the coverage area,” Inspector Long said.

PETER'S FINALS CAMPAIGN

Maribyrnong Star – 8th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/footscray-yarraville/312/story/140140.html>

Violence against women – Peter Daghish says no.

The Maribyrnong City Council capital works officer is a finalist in the 2011 White Ribbon Ambassador of the Year Awards in recognition of his community work to stop violence against women.

“My most memorable moment in the campaign was seeing the number of young people involved in last year’s White Ribbon Day activities, proving to me that there is a positive message being sent and received by the youth in our community,” Mr Daghish said.

Mr Daghish is one of 11 inspiring male role models across the country named as a finalist.

The White Ribbon Ambassador of the Year Award acknowledges the efforts of dedicated men acting as advocates for change, working to curb the frightening reality that one in three Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence or abuse.

“Peter has really shown his dedication to tackling the issue of violence against women,” White Ribbon Ambassador Program Manager Paul McGlew said.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



“Peter provides a shining example of the fantastic work of White Ribbon Ambassadors across the country.

“The White Ribbon Ambassador of the Year Award is about thanking ambassadors and highlighting that every man has a role to play.”

FAREWELL TO THE FUN CENTRE

Maribyrnong Star— 8th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/footscray-yarraville/312/story/140134.html>

Footscray's elderly bid farewell to the Footscray Senior Citizens Centre last week with a morning tea and song.

Regulars packed into the Buckley St site for one last time on Tuesday to celebrate 35 years of dancing, bingo and day trips, singing their club song to the tune of My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean.

Yarraville's Elvira Melani, 90, has been a member for the past decade and said she loved the companionship of the centre.

Ms Melani regularly comes in for the lunches and to play bingo.

“It's beautiful, I never miss a day,” she said.

The centre will temporarily move to the former Maribyrnong-Maidstone RSL building to make way for the Regional Rail Link.

The Raleigh St site has been refurbished to cater for the needs of the senior citizens and to ensure all programs and activities continue to operate.

The Aged Community Bus Service will transport current users between Footscray and the Maribyrnong site.

The former Maribyrnong-Maidstone RSL building will be used as an interim headquarters until the council can find a new site in Footscray or construct a completely new building.

The council, who needed to find an alternative site that would allow it to run any existing programs and activities and plate and distribute the council's Meals on Wheels program, struggled to find an available site of the same size within the municipality.

“It's an emotional time to be leaving this site after 35 years in Footscray, however we're looking forward to a new beginning as the Maribyrnong site will be able to deliver all the services and programs that are currently run,” Maribyrnong City Council Mayor Sarah Carter said.

WARD CHANGES IN THE WIND

Maribyrnong Star— 8th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/footscray-yarraville/312/story/140139.html>

The Victorian Electoral Commission wants to change Maribyrnong City Council's ward boundaries to accommodate future population growth.

In its preliminary report, released last week, the VEC recommended that the municipality should keep seven single-councillor wards, but only with changes to existing ward boundaries.

The proposed changes include placing the entire suburb of Yarraville within Wattle Ward, extending the boundaries of Stony Creek Ward and redefining Sheoak Ward to include all of Seddon.

Under the plan, Saltwater Ward is also altered to include most of Footscray and Ironbark Ward is enlarged to meet the lower boundary of the Medway Golf Club and some of the former Bluestone Ward.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"This structure keeps as close as possible to the original ward structure, while allowing for future population growth," the report explained.

Another two alternative options are also being presented for public comment.

The first alternative option is for a three ward structure with two two-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward.

The second alternative option is for Maribyrnong City Council to increase to nine councillors with three three-councillor wards.

The Local Government Act requires the VEC to conduct a review of each council in Victoria at least every 12 years to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is within 10 per cent of the average number of voters for that municipality.

The VEC had to consider whether there was an appropriate number of councillors for Maribyrnong; whether the municipality should be divided into wards; and the number of wards and positioning of ward boundaries.

Pap Screen Victoria's community development grants program gives grants of up to \$2000 to 19 community-based organisations across Victoria for projects that encourage women to have tests.

MELTON

SUBURB GETS A FOXY NAME

Melton Leader– 15th September 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/suburb-gets-a-foxy-name/>

Melton South's booming Toolern development has been named after a small English fox-hunting town.

The 4500-home development has been branded Atherstone, derived from a rural town in Warwickshire, near Birmingham, and with a population of fewer than 9000 people.

The English Atherstone is about 80km from Melton Mowbray, after which Melton is named.

Seven or eight suburbs within Toolern are yet to be named.

The development has a comparable land size to the Melton township, which has nine suburbs.

Melton Mayor Justin Mammarella had previously flagged early pioneers and settlers of Melton among the favourite names under consideration for suburbs in the new development.

Lend Lease project director Sean Pinan said the name Atherstone was fitting as it paid tribute to the area's rich pastoral history.

"The Melton area was a large pastoral and agricultural district farm productive for grazing livestock or cropping," he said.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"Providing a link to Melton Shire's cultural heritage ensures the community maintains a strong connection with its history."

Plots are priced from \$155,000 and Mr Pinan said the new master-planned community would ease the pressure on Melbourne's housing supply and affordability.

"While drawing on the proven strengths of its 'big sister' at Caroline Springs, Atherstone will offer a very contemporary vision of beauty and tranquillity, balanced between the subtlety of the native habitat and modern urban design," he said.

Melton state Labor MP Don Nardella gave the Atherstone name the tick of approval.

"I think they've done a good job, there seems to be a lot of research gone into it, and I think it picks up on some of the origins of where Melton has come from," he said.

Deputy mayor Broden Borg said the name was fitting and had been "well researched and tested by the developer".

"The reference to stones is linked to the Melton region being historically renowned for its use of stone walls."

The Toolern development will eventually be home to about 50,000.

DOG OWNERS ON NOTICE

Melton Leader – 14th September 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/dog-owners-on-notice-1/>

Owners of dangerous and restricted dog breeds are being urged by Melton Council to surrender their animals.

The call comes after a State Government crackdown following several recent dog attacks, including one at Mt Cottrell.

An amnesty to register restricted breed dogs will end on September 29, meaning that after that date any unregistered restricted breed dog can be seized and destroyed by council officers.

Melton Mayor Justin Mammarella said he was aware of reports from other municipalities that some dog owners had released restricted breed dogs on to the street rather than meeting the strict regulations designed to keep their animals in check.

"Council encourages owners to voluntarily surrender their unwanted restricted breed dogs to the Melton Pound and has waived the fee for such surrenders," he said.

"Council is committed to protecting the community from dangerous dogs and to enforce its powers in the identification and regulation of restricted breed dogs including, but not restricted to, american pit bulls.

"Since December last year, council has been undertaking a proactive doorknock program across the municipality to locate and identify unregistered animals, including restricted breed dogs.

"This proactive doorknock program will be ongoing."

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Anyone who knows of an unregistered restricted breed dog can phone the dangerous dog hotline on 1300 101 0 80 from 8am-6pm.

FUNDS PUT TO PALLIATIVE CARE

Melton Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/funds-put-to-palliative-care/2290215.aspx>

Djerriwarrh Health Services has welcomed increased funding for patients with a terminal illness.

Chief executive Bruce Marshall said \$10,000 from the state government would improve access to inpatient palliative care at Bacchus Marsh and Melton Regional Hospital.

"Palliative care is specialised care for people with a life-limiting illness," Mr Marshall said.

"It is holistic care, addressing the physical and medical needs, as well as the emotional, social, cultural and spiritual needs of the ill person, their family, carers and community."

Health Minister David Davis said the extra money meant thousands of people would be able to receive help and support in their time of need.

Palliative care in Victoria will receive \$8.6 million this financial year.

"This will enhance a skilled palliative care workforce that knows how to care for and provide comfort and support to people with a terminal illness and their families," Mr Davis said.

"For those 50 per cent of Victorians who suffer a period of chronic illness before dying, many would benefit from palliative care."

The need for palliative care was estimated to be growing by 4.6 per cent each year, he said.

Two free forums on cancer for patients and their carers are being offered at Djerriwarrh Health Services on September 21.

DOGS: CALL TO JUDGE THE DEEDS, NOT BREEDS

Melton Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/dogs-call-to-judge-the-deeds-not-breeds/2290209.aspx?storypage=0>

An Eynesbury resident viciously attacked by a dog while collecting census forms fears new legislation will not be enough to prevent further attacks.

But local dog owners and the RSPCA believe certain breeds are being unfairly targeted in the wake of last month's fatal attack on four-year-old Ayen Chol in St Albans.

Owners of dangerous dogs have two weeks to register their animals or face having them destroyed.

State Parliament has fast-tracked tough new laws that will crack down on dangerous and restricted dogs such as American pit bulls.

A hotline has also been set up for the public to do in a dangerous dog.

Agriculture Minister Peter Walsh said the legislation was the first of several measures to outlaw restricted breeds.

An amnesty for the registration of restricted breeds ends on September 29.

Any dog identified as a pit bull which is not registered after that time can be seized and destroyed.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"The changes will close legal loopholes to ensure pit bull-crosses become a restricted breed, and a visual standard for identifying pit bull terriers will be gazetted ... to prevent some of these dogs escaping regulation because of uncertainty over their breed," Mr Walsh said.

Karen Seidel-Davies was taken to hospital with chin and scalp cuts, puncture wounds to her arms and legs and grazes after a vicious dog attack while collecting census forms in Melton.

The attack happened two days before Ayen was killed.

She said that while the laws were a good move, controlling dangerous dogs was hard to do.

"The dog doesn't know any better if they've been locked up their whole life."

Melton South pit bull owner Josh Cook agrees that owners need to be more responsible, but he believes dogs are not a 'problem breed' if raised the right way.

He called for training courses to be made compulsory for dog owners and said many people he knew had already made sure registrations were up to date.

"All my mates' dogs are registered; they love them too much to risk having them taken away."

The RSPCA said it had concerns for breeds that could be mistaken for a pit bull, and it has received calls from people worried their pet could be targeted and put down.

Lost Dogs Home managing director Dr Graeme Smith said dogs should be judged on "their deeds, not their breeds".

"[But] the unfortunate reality is that pit bulls have been selectively bred for the purpose of fighting. It is now society's responsibility to ensure they are fenced off from causing harm to other animals and people."

Melton mayor Justin Mammarella said that despite reports in other municipalities of people letting dogs loose in the streets to avoid strict regulations, no such cases had been reported in the shire.

"Council encourages owners to voluntarily surrender their unwanted restricted breed dogs to the Melton pound and has waived the fee for such surrenders," he said.

r Mammarella said the council's doorknocking program to locate unregistered animals would continue.

Anyone with information on the location of an unregistered restricted breed dog can phone the dangerous dog hotline on 1300 101 080 between 8am

FOSTER CARE: CUDDLES MAKE EFFORT WORTHWHILE

Melton Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/foster-care-cuddles-make-effort-worthwhile/2290216.aspx>

Melton residents are being urged to add a splash of colour to their day by donning rainbow hair to mark Foster Care Week, which began on Sunday.

Free rainbow hair extensions and foster care information are available at the Caroline Springs, Deer Park and Sunshine libraries until the end of the month.

Melton's Stephanie Ferguson has helped more than 100 foster children and last week received a commendation at the Robin Clark awards, announced as part of Child Protection Week to recognise excellence in working with children, youth and families.

Ms Ferguson started as a foster parent with Westcare in June 1994.

A mother and grandmother herself, Ms Ferguson says being a foster parent is rewarding and satisfying.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"Especially when they come out of their shells. It's worth it when the kids come and give you a little cuddle."

She says it is difficult for children to understand why they are in foster care.

"It's not their fault they have been taken away. They don't understand why they can't live with their parents."

Asked how she feels about her commendation, she says it's a pleasure to be acknowledged.

"It felt like a pat on the back, but I don't do it for that.

"I do it because I enjoy it. It's just like having an extended family and I treat them as if they are mine."

Westcare case manager Ron Perry said recognition of Ms Ferguson's work was deserved.

"We believe Stephanie is one of those extraordinary people and is quite deserving of the award."

Westcare's adolescent community placement program has 23 active carers. If this figure was doubled, it would meet the demands of the community.

"We are well below our target because we don't have the number of carers needed," Mr Perry said.

People considering becoming a foster parent should be able to relate to young people's needs, be flexible and patient.

RESIDENTS UP IN ARMS AT OPEN-CUT MINING

Melton Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/residents-up-in-arms-at-opencut-mining/2290222.aspx>

Almost 200 Moorabool residents turned out at a meeting with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) last week to hear about the impact a proposed mine could have on the area.

In a crowded room at Bacchus Marsh Public Hall, residents were joined by politicians from all levels of government, including Ballarat MP Catherine King, Greens' Senator Richard Di Natale, Melton MP Don Nardella and Moorabool mayor Pat Griffin.

Last week's meeting was the culmination of months of anxiety over Mantle Mining's licence to search for brown coal in Moorabool.

The licence covers 38,000 hectares, including Bacchus Marsh, Darley, Myrniong and east of Ballan.

Mantle intends to start an open-cut coal mine. Exploratory drilling at rig sites in the Parwan area began last week.

Residents voiced their anger about the DPI's application process for the exploration licence, with Mantle required to advertise its plans only in a small newspaper notice.

No hands were raised when prominent Melbourne lawyer Rob Stary, who chaired the meeting, asked how many residents had known about Mantle's exploration licence application.

DPI spokesman Doug Sceney tried to allay residents' fears and said the early phases of exploration were low-impact.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"An exploration licence doesn't actually allow you to do anything other than things you might do with hand tools, unless you get further approvals," he said.

But in comments to the Weekly, Energy and Resources Minister Michael O'Brien said Mantle had been given permission to use more intrusive drilling procedures.

"Under an exploration licence, the holder can only undertake low-impact exploration - the use of non-mechanical hand tools - until an approved work plan is in place," he said.

Senator Di Natale said he would urge Mantle Mining to listen to the community's concerns.

MINER KEEPS MUM

Melton Leader— 13th September 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/miner-keeps-mum/>

More than 200 landowners were left angry and disappointed after Mantle Mining failed to speak at a public meeting in Bacchus Marsh.

Organised by the Moorabool Environment Group, the meeting on September 5 was a chance for people to find out more about Mantle Mining's exploration licence in the Bacchus Marsh area and how it could affect the community.

Group secretary Deb Porter said a broad cross-section of the community turned up on the night, including primary producers and landholders from as far afield as Bacchus Marsh, Melton, Eltham and Daylesford, but no one showed up to speak for Mantle Mining.

"People are angry Mantle Mining didn't speak up," Ms Porter said. "The community is really starved for information."

Ms Porter said residents were concerned about water and food security and all they wanted was more information.

She said Department of Primary Industries Earth Resources director Doug Sceney addressed the meeting and explained how an exploration licence was issued.

Mr Sceney reported that no objections were lodged against the proposed exploration licence before it was approved by the State Government. But he was quizzed how there could be objections if no one knew about the application.

Ms Porter said though the proposal was advertised in three local newspapers, none of the papers were delivered to the rural areas where landowners could be affected.

"If landowners had known this was proposed, they would have objected," she said.

It is believed exploration drilling may have started near the Bacchus Marsh Airport, at the end of the south runway.

JUST OPEN YOUR HEART

Melton Star— 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/313/story/140321.html>

Melton Shire Council Mayor Justin Mammarella is asking residents to open their hearts to the Heart Foundation's Doorknock Appeal this month.

The appeal runs until Sunday 18 September and fundraises for research into cardiovascular diseases and community projects to improve awareness, prevention and treatment of heart disease.

"I was concerned to learn that heart disease is the number one killer of Australian men and women," said Cr Mammarella.

"By supporting the work of the Heart Foundation, we can all help someone close to us or others in the community.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"I urge everyone to please dig deep and make a donation when a Heart Foundation volunteer knocks on your door this month."

In Australia, a life is lost to heart disease every 23 minutes.

To recognise Heart Foundation volunteers and open your doors with confidence, you can check the collector is wearing a badge with the Heart Foundation logo and the words Volunteer Collector Official Identification Badge.

Collectors will also have an official receipt book and a small Heart Foundation bag. All donations \$2 and over are tax-deductable.

You can also make donation over the phone by calling the Heart Foundation Doorknock Hotline on 1800 55 22 55 or by visiting www.heartfoundation.org.au/doorknock

MELTON AND MOORABOOL SUPPORT NETWORK HAS THE RIGHT MOVES

Melton Leader– 11th September 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/melton-and-moorabool-support-network-has-the-right-moves/>

From birth to retirement, Djerriwarrh Health Services has a range of outreach services to help people stay fit, healthy and out of hospital.

In addition to the Bacchus Marsh and Melton Regional Hospital, Djerriwarrh operates at six locations across Melton, Bacchus Marsh and Caroline Springs.

Outreach services include community health nursing, palliative care, in-home nursing, counselling, and health education and exercise programs.

One program is GEMS (Gentle Exercise to Music), an exercise group for the mature-aged which has been meeting weekly at Melton Community Health Centre for more than 10 years.

The class is one hour of low-impact exercise followed by a relaxing cup of tea and a chance to chat.

GEMS's long-time facilitator, June Lines, recently retired, leaving Karen Svendsen at the helm.

Like Ms Lines, Ms Svendsen has been running exercise classes for the mature-aged in Melton for several years. The group meets on Wednesdays at 10.30am. Classes are \$3 with registration required.

At the other end of the scale, the Healthy Mother Healthy Babies programs is a hit with new mums.

The HMHB outreach worker helps pregnant women access ante-natal and post-natal services and social support services such as housing, welfare, transport and peer groups plus information on healthy behaviours in pregnancy and beyond.

MELTON AND MOORABOOL STUDENTS GAIN SELF-ESTEEM

Melton Leader– 10th September 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/melton-and-moorabool-students-gain-self-esteem/>

Melton and Moorabool youths are learning vital skills to put their best foot forward into adulthood.

As part of its outreach services, Djerriwarrh Health Services has a long standing partnership with Coburn Primary School, supporting students and families in addressing social and emotional needs. Djerriwarrh Health Services counselling manager Joan Eddy said a counsellor was based at the school four days a week.

This was to provide a number of different programs around building and maintaining friendships, understanding and learning about respectful behaviours and dealing constructively with feelings of anger and frustration.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



She said two of the programs presently operating were the 'Rockstars' boys group and the 'Building Friendships For Life' girls group.

"The boys groups centre on dance, music and interpretation, while the girls concentrate on discussions and art and craft," she said.

The core aim of both groups is to increase the self-esteem of students and equip them with strategies to improve their ability to communicate at school and at home - in general help them become happier and more confident children.

After the success of the first BFFL group, a second is about to start.

"Evaluation of the first program found that the participants did learn successfully about respect, fairness to peers and they felt more confident," Ms Eddy said. "Parents reported their children's negotiating skills had improved."

MELTON COUNCIL GALLERY WARNING REJECTED

Melton Leader— 9th September 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/melton-council-gallery-warning-rejected/>

Ratepayers will not be read a warning on how to behave at council meetings, Melton Council chief Kelvin Tori says.

Mr Tori said the council would be reluctant to act on calls for a Statement of Conduct to be read to the gallery before each council meeting.

The call comes after a man was asked to leave the chamber at the council's July meeting for taking his vocal protest too far.

Rowdy ratepayers have been threatened with fines of up to \$500 for unruly behaviour, and a written warning is now printed in each council agenda.

The council also has hired a security guard to patrol outside each meeting, with a second guard used for nights containing "risky" agenda items.

But Diggers Rest resident and regular gallery member David O'Connor suggests more action be taken.

"Council should consider the inclusion of a Statement of Conduct to be read prior to each meeting following the traditional preamble," he said.

"Given the rowdy behaviour and associated comments by some at recent meetings of council, it's clear that the current lack of understanding with respect to gallery protocol puts all those in the chamber at risk.

"Especially with threats to eject citizens and involve the police."

Mr Tori said verbal warnings were "a direction the council was reluctant to go down".

"The vast majority of people who attend council meetings are pretty regular attendees and know what is and isn't allowed," he said.

Mr Tori also ruled out the possibility of having an open question time, a method adopted by some councils.

"It tends to descend into a debate rather than a question and answer session," he said.

NAMING OF MELTON SUBURB AFTER LYDIA LASSILA NOW UNLIKELY

Melton Leader— 9th September 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/old-name-for-new-melton-shire-suburb/>

The possibility of naming a Melton Shire suburb after winter Olympic gold medallist Lydia Lassila looks over.

Melton Mayor Justin Mammarella last year flagged the possibility of naming the Taylors Hill West development Lydia, in honour of the Melton Shire ambassador.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Ms Lassila won gold in the women's freestyle aerials final at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

But a proposal from the estate developer to Melton Council suggests the boundaries of several neighbouring suburbs be expanded instead of renaming the 217ha development.

Plumpton, Taylors Hill, Hillside, Burnside Heights and Caroline Springs all border the estate and could be expanded.

Taylors Hill West was only a working name for the 2300 home, 6500 residential development which was expected to be renamed this year.

Council chief executive Kelvin Tori said a letter of request from the developer would go before the council for consideration.

"The request from the developers is that we consider changing it from Plumpton to marry it into the existing suburbs that are there," he said.

"They're suggesting that the boundaries of existing suburbs be amended to incorporate the Taylors Hill West development."

Mr Tori all but ruled out the suburb being named in honour of Ms Lassila.

"I can't say it won't happen but it would be an unusual name for a suburb," he said.

Mr Tori said if the suggestion to extend the boundaries of adjoining suburbs was approved by the council, it would need final approval from the Geographic Place Names Committee.

MOONEE VALLEY

NEW LAWS WILL PROSECUTE OWNERS OF ATTACK DOGS

Moonee Valley Leader – 13th September 2011

<http://moonee-valley-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/new-laws-will-prosecute-owners-of-attack-dogs/>

Owners of dogs who attack and kill will face serious criminal charges under laws to be introduced today.

State Agricultural Minister Peter Walsh will introduce new offences to the Crimes Act in today's sitting of parliament.

The legislation comes on a day when a Glenroy man was attacked by a dog while out walking his Jack Russell.

Under the new laws the owner of the attacking dog could face almost \$5000 in fines.

The proposed legislation also states that owners of dogs who kill could face penalties similar to those charged with dangerous driving causing death.

While owners of registered dangerous dogs who are found roaming could face fines of nearly \$5000.

The tough legislation comes after last month's death of four-year-old St Albans girl Ayen Chol, who was attacked in her own home by a neighbour's dog.

Parliament last month passed new laws to force dog owners to register breeds of dogs considered dangerous.

Any dangerous breeds not registered by September 29 face death.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



The State Government has also introduced a dangerous dogs hotline for people to report dangerous breeds in their street.

Mr Walsh had previously warned that the hotline was not an emergency number and encouraged people to phone 000 in emergency situations.

The dangerous breeds hotline is on 1300 101 080 and is open from 8am-6pm.

KEILOR ROAD TOWER PLAN GETS RISE FROM COUNCIL

Moonee Valley Weekly— 13th September 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/keilor-road-tower-plan-gets-rise-from-council/2288701.aspx>

A multi-level apartment and retail building on Keilor Road, North Essendon, has been approved by Moonee Valley Council.

The application for 295 Keilor Road is the second controversial development to be approved in as many weeks for the stretch of road.

Last month, the council approved an application for two five-storey buildings at 102-110 Keilor Road, despite fears from one councillor that the towers would create a wind tunnel through Essendon.

The latest application has been significantly revised, from a five-storey 89-dwelling building to a four-storey building with 76 dwellings and at least 100 car spaces.

But the proposal is headed to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal as a result of the council failing to make its decision within the prescribed 60 days.

The application, submitted by developer AMJE Pty Ltd, had received 44 formal objections and forced a public consultation meeting on June 30.

Buckley ward's Cr Paul Giuliano put forward the scaled-back version of the apartments, saying it was better to give VCAT a guide as to what the council would accept rather than a blanket "no".

"When you just say 'no' you're not even giving VCAT an option.

"What you are doing is giving a third party who doesn't know the area the option to make a decision based only on planning policy not on the residents or council's opinion."

Crs Shirley Cornish, Narelle Sharpe and Jan Chantry did not support the motion to approve the revised application.

CRACKDOWN ON LICENSED VENUE LAWS

Moonee Valley Leader— 13th September 2011

<http://moonee-valley-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/crackdown-on-licensed-venue-laws/>

New bar owners will face tougher restrictions when applying for liquor licences under a proposed tightening of local laws.

Moonee Valley Council has released a draft policy looking at issues related to local licensed venues, including noise, transport, operating hours, capacity, design and density.

Council planning spokesman Cr Paul Giuliano said the policy would guide the council when considering applications for new licences.

"It gives us the chance to have greater say in patronage (and) ... to impose restrictions on numbers for noise," Cr Giuliano said.

Cr Miriam Gillis said councillors regularly received complaints about licensed areas, but had little control over them.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



She said the policy would give planners a guide when they are considering applications. Suggestions include discouraging new licenses around areas already experiencing noise problems. Applicants would also be asked to submit a social impact report.

Other options to deal with noise include drinking bans in outdoor areas after 11pm and staggering closing hours to prevent people leaving at one time.

Deluxe Bar owner Blair McFarlane said existing licensees had plans in place to deal with anti-social behaviour and noise, but welcomed a plan for new venues.

"It's good that they address those issues in advance and have strategies in place to deal with them before it arises," he said.

Community feedback on the Licensed Premises Policy Background paper is being sought until October 28.

MOONEE VALLEY POLICY PUTS LID ON LIQUOR FREE-FOR-ALL

Moonee Valley Weekly – 13th September 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moonee-valley-policy-puts-lid-on-liquor-freeforall/2288704.aspx>

Moonee Valley is experiencing a boom in the number of liquor licence applications before the council.

In the past four years, there has been a 12 per cent increase in the number of licensed premises in the municipality, from 209 venues in 2006 to 238 last year.

In 2009, Moonee Valley Council received 28 planning permit applications relating to new or variations to existing liquor licences.

Despite the rapid growth the council has no policy to guide decision making - until now.

At its recent meeting, the council moved to develop a licensed premises policy which would include significant community consultation.

The policy is aimed at improving the planning process of approving liquor licence applications and reducing any negative impacts associated with an increase in the number or size of licensed venues.

The move comes as a report by Eastern Health's Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre revealed a link between the density of Victorian alcohol outlets and the number of assault-related hospital admissions.

Analysis of liquor licensing, hospitalisation and demographic data found a 10 per cent increase in the rate of general licences was likely to increase hospitalisation rates for assault by 0.6 per cent. Similarly, a 10 per cent increase in packaged liquor outlets could increase assault rates by 0.8 per cent.

Myrnong ward's Cr Miriam Gillis called on the community to have its say about the draft policy.

"We regularly receive complaints from residents on this issue but we have no way of controlling these things because we don't have a policy - we really need people to get involved."

There are 249 licensed venues in Moonee Valley, most of which operate as restaurants and cafes. There are also 16 late night licensed venues operating after 1am.

The draft policy is available for public comment until October 28. Details at Moonee Valley Council

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



STRATHMORE NORTH SCHOOL'S IN

Moonee Valley Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/strathmore-north-schools-in/2288700.aspx>

A new building, netball court and refurbished classrooms were opened at Strathmore North Primary School last week.

Federal Wills MP Kelvin Thomson opened the new building which was funded as part of the government's Building the Education Revolution program.

The school received \$2,650,000 for the developments.

UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY IN MOONEE PONDS

Moonee Valley Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/universal-childrens-day-in-moonee-ponds/2288703.aspx>

Youngsters Eve 5, and Matthieu, 5, (pictured) love their teddies and they love a picnic. As part of Children's Week and Universal Children's Day they get to combine the two at Moonee Valley Council's Teddy Bears' Picnic.

The picnic will feature Huggles the Teddy Bear and fun activities like painting, singing, dancing and biscuit decorating.

The picnic will be at the Incinerator Gallery, 180 Holmes Road, Moonee Ponds from 10am to noon on October 26. For information on other Children's Week events, visit Moonee Valley Council

MOONEE VALLEY VISION FOR CITY STREETS ON THE LINE

Moonee Valley Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moonee-valley-vision-for-city-streets-on-the-line/2288699.aspx>

Moonee Valley Cr Narelle Sharpe is prepared to put her "head on the chopping block" to protect the municipality's streets from overdevelopment.

Her comments follow concerns by Cr Paul Giuliano that the council would have difficulty selling its draft review of the North Essendon and Keilor Road structure plan and built form Guidelines to Planning Minister Matthew Guy.

"I'm willing to put my head on the chopping block to try and sell this to the minister," Cr Sharpe said.

"We really need to be conscious of what multi-storey developments do to our neighbourhoods."

The structure plan is designed to guide development in the area.

A previously endorsed council plan had allowed multi-level apartment developments on a number of residential streets around Keilor Road including Market, Queen, Winifred, Dudley and Ross streets, and Hotham and Carrington roads.

In April, Cr Sharpe called for a review of the plan. This week she successfully had a number of properties removed from it.

Her reason for doing so was to "protect streets from overdevelopment".

Mayor John Sipek said Moonee Valley was a city "in transition".

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"In line with state government policy, Moonee Valley, as an inner-Melbourne municipality, will take on a percentage of this population growth, which means higher-density living in some areas.

"We need to have good plans in place to ensure this growth takes place in areas which have the attributes to accommodate [it]".

The new plans and design guidelines, which require approval from the Department of Planning and Community Development, will go on public exhibition from September 19 to October 24.

LAWYERS CALL FOR STOP-SEARCH RECEIPTS

Moonee Valley Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/lawyers-call-for-stopsearch-receipts/2288697.aspx>

Lawyers at the Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre have called for police to give receipts to anyone they stop and search.

Lawyers admit details of the receipts protocol would need to be refined, but they put forward the proposal with commercial law firm Arnold Bloch Leibler at a legal matters round-table discussion last month.

The legal centre wants residents to be given a receipt which outlines the legal reasons they were stopped.

The proposal aims to prevent arbitrary or racially discriminatory stops and searches by police.

The legal centre says it would also assist in tracking and documenting any racial disparities in stop-and-search patterns.

In July, a legal centre study, Race or Reason, found that 43 per cent of African-born youths in the Flemington area were not given a reason for being stopped by the police.

It also found that among African-born youths 48 per cent believe that police stopped them because of their race and 30 per cent were always worried they would be stopped by the police whenever they walked down the street.

Legal centre lawyer Tamar Hopkins said the claims were a recurring theme.

"These findings echo concerns about force, arbitrary searching, detentions and racial taunts raised in a 2010 report released by Monash Springvale Legal Services titled Boys, You Wanna Give me Some Action? and in a 2008 report released by the Victorian Human Rights Commission titled Rights of Passage."

A further recommendation from the discussion was for Victoria Police to produce quarterly public reports on the racial or ethnic background of the people who were stopped and searched and the arrests that were made.

Flemington's Senior Sergeant Damien Christensen was not available for comment when the Moonee Valley Weekly went to press.

NO ROOM, SO MOONEE VALLEY'S GROWING UP

Moonee Valley Weekly– 13th September 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/no-room-so-moonee-valleys-growing-up/2288698.aspx>

Moonee Valley's population is expected to grow from 114,000 to 119,000 by 2031 and the council is asking, "Where will we put everyone?"

A report from the council's strategic research and planning officer showed the municipality's population was growing at a significant rate, and so, too, was the trend for multi-level developments.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Since January 2009, the council has received 27 applications for developments three storeys or higher. A further 40 applications are being processed.

The municipalities expected growth rate does not include any planned development at the Moonee Valley racecourse, which could add another 6000 residents.

The report reveals that aside from a 420-dwelling Ascot Chase development at Ascot Vale and 650 dwellings at Avondale Heights Valley Lakes, there are very few large development sites left in Moonee Valley.

High-density growth was expected to occur around activity centres at Moonee Ponds, Essendon, Union Road, Racecourse Road and Keilor Road.

Airport West is tipped to have significant population growth because of its proximity to amenities and a tram network.

But Cr Paul Giuliano said Airport West residents should not fear a boom in high-rise development.

"Those suburban streets in Airport West do about an activity centre, light rail route and a bus exchange, but they are suited to low-density housing."

He said the land size of dwellings could be suited to three or four units, but he stressed they should be single-storey, not multi-level.

Cr Giuliano said the significant amount of industrial land in Airport West was also likely to remain and was not earmarked to be rezoned residential.

"You always need a certain amount of industrial land in a municipality."

Essendon resident Jo Dickson said she liked Essendon and Niddrie the way they were.

Jo and her partner Damien Ash recently moved to Essendon from an outer suburb.

"Once all these apartments on Keilor Road are finished it's going to make it a lot busier.

"The number of cars on the road is going to increase - it's changing the architectural landscape.

"If developers want to build such monstrous apartment blocks tell them to head out to Hillside or Craigieburn."

Moonee Ponds resident Liam Wilkinson said he didn't know how all the new residents were supposed to fit in.

"I personally don't feel there is room for any more apartments in Moonee Ponds.

"We don't want our area to become like Docklands where [apartments] are everywhere.

"It's a suburb with character. We shouldn't allow the greedy developers to ruin it."

MOONEE VALLEY WINS AWARD

Moonee Valley Weekly— 12th September 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moonee-valley-wins-award/2288841.aspx>

Moonee Valley Council has won a state award for excellent management of water assets.

The council won Stormwater Victoria's Asset Management Award for its Integrated Water Asset Management Program.

The program involves using water wisely, improving the quality of local waterways, improving flood management and sourcing alternative water to irrigate open spaces.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



The council was recognised for its work installing rain gardens, wetlands and rainwater tanks.

Its extensive work bringing life back to the Afton Street wetlands was highly commended.

OPERATION ROLLER TO TARGET NORTHERN SUBURBS CRIME

Moonee Valley Weekly– 12th September 2011

<http://moonee-valley-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/operation-roller-to-target-northern-suburbs-crime/>

Hundreds of police on horseback, quad bikes and helicopters will crack down on crime across the northern suburbs.

Operation Roller, launched at Fawkner Police Station this morning, will see police from the state's Operational Response Unit blitz the streets to target assaults, robberies, road trauma, public order offences, vehicle and property crime.

Acting Superintendent Stephen Mutton said the three-month operation would be the biggest ever held in the north-west metro region.

He said though the operation wasn't a direct response to recently released crime figures, which revealed a surge in Moreland offences during the 2010-11 financial year, it was acknowledgement that the region's police had a heavy workload.

"Hume, Moreland and Moonee Valley are extremely busy areas and even though we've got extra police we're just so busy," Acting Supt Mutton said.

"We've had critical issues like the shooting and the (alleged) double murder.

"We've done planning to make sure it has an impact on crime figures and the community will know we're here catching the bad guys and making the community safer."

Acting Supt Mutton said the blitz would also target areas where there were a lot of licensed premises, like Sydney Rd and Mt Alexander Rd, and there would be police out in force during the spring racing carnival.

He had a message for the region's criminals.

"You will see a lot of police and if you are going to commit a crime there's a greater chance you'll be apprehended and end up before the courts," he said.

"We've had some significant crimes but also some significant arrests."

Acting Supt Mutton asked the community to call 000 if they saw anything suspicious and Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 if they have information for police.

MOONEE VALLEY WINS AWARD

Moonee Valley Weekly– 12th September 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moonee-valley-wins-award/2288841.aspx>

Moonee Valley Council has won a state award for excellent management of water assets.

The council won Stormwater Victoria's Asset Management Award for its Integrated Water Asset Management Program.

The program involves using water wisely, improving the quality of local waterways, improving flood management and sourcing alternative water to irrigate open spaces.

The council was recognised for its work installing rain gardens, wetlands and rainwater tanks.

Its extensive work bringing life back to the Afton Street wetlands was highly commended.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



WYNDHAM

OPPORTUNITY ABOUNDS IN WYNDHAM

Wyndham Leader— 15th September 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/opportunity-abounds-in-wyndham/>

Wedding gowns and outfits for the races are among items awaiting thrifty shoppers at local op shops.

Wyndham City Salvation Army's op-shop has hundreds of pre-loved and new gowns and racks of race wear, at bargain prices. Proceeds go to helping needy locals.

The Spring Racing Carnival starts this month.

The op shop in Werribee was visited on a tour of local second-hand stores at the weekend as part of Wyndham Council's Sustainability Festival.

It is open weekdays from 9am-5pm and Saturday from 9am-4.30pm, on Synnot St.

Other op shops in Wyndham include:

*Take 2, corner of Heaths and Derrimut roads, Hoppers Crossing, open 10am-3pm, Wednesday to Friday, and 10am-2pm, the first Saturday of each month;

* Salvos, Elm Park Drive, Hoppers Crossing, 9am-5.30pm, weekdays, and Saturday, 10am-2pm;

*Lighthouse, also on Elm Park Drive, 9am-5pm, Monday to Saturday;

*Uniting Care, corner of Synnot St and Duncans Rd, Werribee, 10am-2pm, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday;

*Australian Red Cross, Watton St, Werribee, 9.30am-5pm, weekdays, and 9.30am-1pm, Saturday;

*Vinnies, also on Watton St, 9.30am-4.30pm, weekdays, and 9.30am to noon, Saturday;

*Vinnies, Costa Drive, Hoppers Crossing, 9am-5pm, Monday to Saturday, and 10am-5pm, Sunday;

*Two Fat Ladies Pre-loved Goods, Concorde Crescent, Werribee, 9am-5pm, weekdays, and Saturday, 9am-3pm

\$1M CRUSHER CLOCKS ON IN WYNDHAM

Wyndham Leader— 15th September 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/1m-crusher-clocks-on-in-wyndham/>

It cost \$1.07 million, weighs 52 tonnes and crushes everything in its path.

Werribee tip's new rubbish compactor was delivered last week.

The new compactor moves on rollers, eliminating the chance of debris getting stuck in the wheels and includes an automatic greasing system that reduces the risk of breakdowns.

Wyndham Cr Bob Fairclough said the new compactor was the biggest in its category.

"Wyndham residents dispose of about 3200 tonnes of garbage a month, which makes this compactor a must-have item," he said.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



“This new compactor will compress waste, making sure we maximise the space we have available, as landfill is a very valuable commodity.”

He encouraged residents to seek ways to reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill.

For more information on how to do this, go to wyndham.vic.gov.au

Rubbish tip fees in Wyndham increased in July mainly because of the State Government's decision to increase landfill levies, the council said at the time.

Rates at the Werribee refuse-disposal centre are now \$19 for a car or station wagon and \$35 for a level, single-axle trailer.

In May this year, the Environment Protection Authority announced landfill levies for municipal waste would rise from \$30 to \$40 a tonne, forcing the council to increase gate fees for all tip users.

Wyndham ratepayers get two tip vouchers and two pre-booked hard waste collections a year.

The Werribee tip, on Wests Rd, is open weekdays, 8am-4pm, and weekends and public holidays (except Christmas Day and Good Friday), 8.30am-4pm.

It does not take asbestos or liquid waste.

WYNDHAM COUNCIL WORKERS TO VOTE ON STRIKE

Wyndham Leader– 14th September 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/wyndham-council-workers-to-vote-on-strike/2290669.aspx>

Staff at Wyndham Council will consider taking strike action after a breakdown in enterprise bargaining agreement talks with their employer.

The council is offering a 4per cent pay increase each year for three years. But workers are unwilling to accept the offer, claiming it is lower than what neighbouring councils have awarded their staff.

Instead workers, who are members of the Australian Services Union, will vote on whether to take protected industrial action.

Staff will have until 10am on Monday to vote, with more than 50per cent of ASU members needing to vote in favour of industrial action for it to be protected under the Fair Work Act.

A copy of the ballot paper, seen by the Weekly, lists 25 proposed work bans which will impact on council operations.

Proposed action includes:

- Indefinite bans on patrols of selected shopping centres by outdoor cleaning crews.
- Refusal to process bank cheques, infringements or accept rate payments.
- Indefinite bans on issuing infringement notices in selected areas.
- Refusal to mow selected high-profile parks, reserves and sporting grounds.
- Refusal to respond to non-urgent requests from councillors.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



ASU organiser David Beckley said staff had suggested the council make an annual payment of \$250 to employees, on top of its minimum wage, to encourage long service and reward excellence.

The payment would be available only to employees who had completed at least five years of service and would be subject to an annual review process, he said. This was refused by management.

Council chief executive Kerry Thompson said should strike action be approved, management would work to minimise the impact on the community. "Our priority continues to be providing quality services to the community, while maintaining responsible spending."

EXTRA HELP FOR WYNDHAM POLICE IN NEW BLITZ ON CRIME

Wyndham Weekly– 14th September 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/extra-help-for-wyndham-police-in-new-blitz-on-crime/2290666.aspx>

The strain on police resources in Wyndham will be eased with the introduction of Operation Roller, according to Inspector Bill Weatherly.

Under the mass police operation, members of the operations response unit will combine with local police in a three-month blitz targeting assaults, robberies, vehicle and property crime, road trauma and public order offences. "It's a way of maximising resources," Inspector Weatherly said. "We often need to think outside of the box to provide the extra resources that we have needed in Wyndham."

Inspector Weatherly said the operation was totally reliant on intelligence that would

be provided to the police station every morning. "I could come in on a Tuesday morning and see there has been a spate of burglaries in a certain area and we can then immediately direct some resources to burglaries," he said.

The operation will be assisted by police members from air wing, dog squad, transit safety division and mounted branch.

"From the community's point of view, it's a proactive measure that will provide a visible presence in the local community, a perception of safety that they may not have seen in the past," Inspector Weatherly said.

VCAL CASH CUTS HURT

Wyndham Weekly– 14th September 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/vcal-cash-cuts-hurt/2290668.aspx>

Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews, principal Colin Schot and Tarneit MP Tim Pallas placed an order with Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning students Shanana and Wafaa (pictured) at Warringa Park School's Cafe 11 on Monday.

Mr Schot rates the VCAL program as the most important initiative offered to the school's 300 students. "Due to cuts to the co-ordinator role we will lose \$37,000 from our VCAL budget as a result, and there is no doubt we will have to find the money from other sources. The cuts really hurt, because it is just so difficult for schools to raise funds in the current economic climate," he said.

Mr Andrews said VCAL co-ordinators were essential in developing curriculum and assessment materials, developing partnerships with local employment networks as well as co-ordinating student administration. "VCAL provides students an alternative to VCE, and a pathway to a career."

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



COUNSELLORS BACK LAWS ON LENDERS

Wyndham Weekly– 14th September 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/counsellors-back-laws-on-lenders/2290684.aspx>

Federal government plans to cap steep interest rates and fees associated with pay-day loans have been welcomed by financial counsellors in Werribee.

Assistant treasurer Bill Shorten introduced new draft legislation last week aimed at breaking the business model of loan sharks who target low-income earners.

Financial counsellor at Anglicare Victoria in Werribee, Shungu Patsika, said the proposed changes were a step in the right direction and would prevent the exploitation of their most vulnerable clients.

"We have continually found clients pay off their debts to pay-day lenders instead of paying overdue utility bills, and then they get caught in a debt spiral, going to pay-day lenders to pay off other pay-day lenders."

Mr Patsika said pay-day lenders should be "the land of the last resort" and clients needed to be aware of other options that were available from community agencies.

Cash Converters managing director Peter Cummins said the changes would cast serious doubt over short-term lenders' capacity to continue to offer the service.

"These caps will limit our ability to cover costs, therefore the service may be withdrawn from a marketplace like Werribee," he said.

"Banks aren't going to step in and pick up the shortfall of this service, you can't walk into a bank and walk out 30 minutes later with the money you need."

A Treasury report indicated that about half of all pay-day loan customers have annual incomes below \$24,000 and a quarter have incomes falling below the

poverty line. Wyndham Legal Service's Denis Nelthorpe said the pay-day lending industry didn't offer anything to the public and targeted only the most vulnerable.

LITTLE RIVER BATTLE WON, BUT FAR FROM OVER

Wyndham Weekly– 14th September 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/little-river-battle-won-but-far-from-over/2290670.aspx>

Little River residents are celebrating Planning Minister Matthew Guy's decision to knock back a transport hub which would have resulted in thousands of trucks hurtling past the township daily.

Mr Guy last week announced his intention to reject the Intermodal Freight Facility proposal, saying it was not the right time for such a facility to be built.

"It is premature to do that given that the Avalon rail link is planned," he said.

"If there is a railway line built [at Avalon] the [Geelong] council might decide to look at [building] something there in the future."

The transport hub and associated industrial park, planned by NSW-based Buildev, would have been built on a 750-hectare site on the corner of Beach and Old Melbourne Roads, inside Geelong Council boundaries.

Residents of Little River feared it would devastate the amenity of their nearby township, with 18,000 trucks and 40,000 cars expected to be added to local roads each day.

Lara and Little River Rural Action Group member Patrick O'Halloran said thrilled residents would now campaign to have the hub removed from the Lara Structure Plan. He said they were concerned any transport hub would increase noise, lights and pollution in the area and destroy flora and fauna at the nearby Werribee plains grasslands.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



"We have won a battle but we haven't won the war. [The hub] could be reassessed and put forward again," he said.

Calls to Buildex were not returned, but the Weekly believes the company is hoping to proceed with the hub at the site under revised plans.

GROG SALES 'TIED TO VIOLENCE'

Wyndham Weekly– 14th September 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/grog-sales-tied-to-violence/2290665.aspx>

Reducing the number of bottle shops in Wyndham could have a direct impact on assault-related hospital admissions and rate of chronic disease, new research has found.

Research fellow Michael Livingston, of Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, has revealed links between the density of alcohol outlets and the number of assault-related hospital admissions.

Mr Livingston's analysis of liquor licensing, hospitalisation and demographic data found:

- A 10per cent increase in packaged liquor outlets could increase assault rates by 0.8per cent.
- A 10per cent increase in the rate of packaged licences increased hospitalisations by 1.9per cent.

"A packaged liquor outlet is the key driver. Three-quarters of the alcohol we drink comes from bottle shops," Mr Livingston said.

"Pubs have a role to play but bottle shops were linked to higher rates of domestic violence and chronic disease and general disease."

Dr Matt Ryan, deputy director of emergency at Werribee Mercy Hospital, said the research backed up his experiences.

"Drawing on my many years in emergency departments around Australia, I've observed alcohol as being the single biggest cause of presentations to emergency departments for injury and mental illness - more than any other legal or illegal drug," he said.

Addiction programs co-ordinator of ISIS Primary Care, Paul Gibbs, said the effect of alcohol-related issues on community health services was huge.

"While it's younger people who are often the ones getting involved in binge drinking, what happens is this binge drinking evolves over time into chronic problems with alcohol which are the main issues we deal with."

YOUTH ON THE ROAD AGAIN IN WYNDHAM

Wyndham Leader– 14th September 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/youth-on-the-road-again-in-wyndham/>

A bus for young people to hang out in is back on Wyndham's roads.

The council relaunched its Street Surfer Youth Bus program last week, at its newly extended Youth Resource Centre.

The renovated bus with a decorated exterior is equipped with internet access, video games and information on local activities. It was previously used by the council as a community coach.

The program first started in Wyndham in 2005 but stopped due to mechanical problems with the old bus in 2009.

That bus made 350 outings and was used by 9022 young people.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



The council has funded a full-time worker to run the new bus, with help from its Youth Services staff, local police and volunteers.

Selected year 10 students from Werribee's The Grange P-12 College will be trained as volunteers.

Cr Adele DeCrescenzo said the bus would help the council engage with younger residents.

"Young people can play video games, access the internet, have something to eat and it also gives people a chance to get to know our staff and what services we have available at the Youth Resource Centre and around Wyndham," she said.

Works to almost double the Youth Resource Centre at Hoppers Crossing were officially opened last week.

The \$2.1 million expansion to cater for the city's booming youth population includes a bigger public internet space, from five to 13 computers for free use.

The Derrimut Rd centre provides support and programs for people aged 12-25 and their families. It is open weekdays from 9am-6pm.

ARTIST DEFENDS CAT SCULPTURE

Wyndham Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/werribee-hoppers-crossing/313/story/140357.html>

A sculptor has defended his artwork, which Wyndham City Council will spend \$60,000 installing, after Star catalogued several criticisms of the statue recently.

The council will erect the sculpture, called 'Bronze Cat', outside the Wyndham Vale Community Centre.

But at the last council meeting, Councillor Adele De Crescenzo described the three-metre long feline statue as "ugly, hideous and grotesque" and said she could not "justify \$60,000 to be spent on this work".

In response, artist Dean Bowen said there was no "right or wrong" opinion about art and everyone was entitled to their opinion.

"I was lucky enough to be selected to do the commission and from the article it seems like one councillor was dead against it and everyone else voted for it," he said.

"The sculpture was open to tender and anyone could apply within the set budget and there was a shortlist of three artists who needed to supply a small model and proposal, and I was interviewed by a panel of around 14 people."

Mr Bowen said as the artwork would be located outside a community learning centre, including a maternal and child health centre. He said he designed the cat figurine to appeal to children.

"My proposal was that many children would be using the building and I thought it needed to be a sculpture relevant to children," he said.

"I thought one thing really attractive to kids was their pet, such as a cat.

"I'm hoping that they love the sculpture and are attracted to it and want to touch it and have their photo taken with it.

"I was very surprised to have such a vicious response to the sculpture.

"I was very surprised at the councillor's comments.

"I definitely didn't expect it and some things in public art can be very controversial, such as photographing young children, but cats are not particularly offensive."

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



FROM THE MANOR TORN IN WYNDHAM VALE

Wyndham Leader– 13th September 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/from-the-manor-torn-in-wyndham-vale/>

Manor Lakes residents could be asked to shift out temporarily during construction of the Regional Rail Link to avoid rock blasting.

But before they pack their bags, the Regional Rail Link Authority says contractors being considered for the Deer Park to west of Werribee section of the line have been asked to minimise the impact of works on residents.

The authority has released a noise impact management report and draft noise management plan for public comment until Wednesday, September 21.

The report discusses the need to temporarily relocate residents if blasting has to be done at night.

The rail line is to be cut through Manor Vale, involving significant earthworks to remove basaltic rock.

An authority spokeswoman said last week that drilling, hammering, blasting and ripping were among the construction techniques that could be used to remove the rock.

“The Regional Rail Link Authority and the contractor will manage the work in a way that minimises impacts on the surrounding community and environment as much as possible,” she said.

She said the successful contractor was expected to be announced early next year, after which time more information about construction techniques would be provided.

Manor Lakes Residents Association secretary Lesley Watson said the new rail line and station at Manor Lakes would benefit residents and the wider community but would also cause some inconvenience during construction.

“Until the tender is let, we would not be in a position to know what impact, if any, would require possible relocation of nearby residents,” she said.

Every fortnight, 9am-8pm, from September 21, residents can visit the Wyndham Vale Community Learning Centre to speak with authority representatives.

WEDGED IN AGAINST HOUSING IN POINT COOK

Wyndham Leader– 13th September 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/wedged-in-against-housing-in-point-cook/>

About 30 people gathered in Point Cook last Thursday to protest at State Government plans to open up 443ha of land in the area to housing.

The state’s Growth Areas Authority recently recommended building houses on land bordering Point Cook, Aviation and Hacketts roads, near two large wetlands and including existing market gardens.

The land is among Melbourne’s “green wedges” being reassessed by the Government.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy wrote asking councils in July what changes they would like to their “green wedges”.

Wyndham Council asked that further housing be considered in Point Cook and for land to be released in a green wedge zone in Werribee West for an employment precinct.

A council report supporting opening up the Point Cook land for development said it sought to create a buffer between housing and market gardens south of Point

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Cook, in the form of a golf course, but that housing should be allowed “to attract and support such a proposal”.

Last Thursday’s rally was organised by Altona state Labor MP Jill Hennessy and addressed by Opposition planning spokesman Brian Tee.

Ms Hennessy, who could not attend the rally, said residents were concerned about more road congestion and extra pressure on already over-stretched schools and other community facilities that another possible 3000 new houses would entail.

But some Point Cook residents reacted to Ms Hennessy’s comments with scepticism and refused to attend the rally, labelling it a publicity stunt.

Facebook posts criticised the former Bracks and Brumby governments for allowing development without the necessary infrastructure in the first place.

Angela Williams emailed the Leader saying holding the rally at 11am on a weekday meant most Point Cook residents could not attend.

“The Labor government are calling it a Ted Baillieu ‘plan’. However, Labor were in power for many, many years and did nothing about West Gate Bridge, freeway and the ramps in to Point Cook,” she said.

BOOZE BUSES NO HIT ON FACEBOOK

Wyndham Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/werribee-hoppers-crossing/313/story/140351.html>

Posting the location of police booze buses and patrol cars on Facebook does not deter people from committing traffic crimes, according to Wyndham police.

An emerging trend among users of internet social networking sites, such as Facebook, is to warn their friends via a post about any police activity they see beside the road, such as speed cameras and alcohol-testing vans.

Recent posts along these lines from Wyndham residents include ‘Booze bus hoppers xing/Werribee setting up’, ‘Booze bus opposite ballan holden, hoppers crossing’, ‘hoppers crossing exit booze bus’ and ‘Mad police blitz in point cook’.

However, Wyndham’s police Inspector Bill Weatherly said he did not believe the Facebook warnings were having much of an impact on illegal driver behaviour within the area.

“All I can say about the site locations being put on Facebook, we are still catching far too many at booze bus sites, so that makes me think that the locals still believe they can get away with it,” he said.

“In relation to camera sites, I spoke to an operator just yesterday and he told me that over a four hour period last Saturday he detected over 130 drivers exceeding the speed limit at a site in Wyndham.

Wyndham’s Highway Patrol have arrested a spate of young drivers behaving recklessly over the past few weeks, including a 17-year-old learner without a supervising driver.

Acting Sgt Crouch warned all drivers who believe roads “are your own personal race track” to “think again”.

RADIO WAVES GO GAY IN WYNDHAM

Wyndham Leader– 11th September 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/radio-waves-go-gay-in-wyndham/>

A new radio program for the West’s gay population has hit the airwaves in Werribee.

WynFM 88.9 hosts Go West each Sunday from 8-10pm. Its presenter, Alan, does not wish to be identified because he fears attacks from homophobic Wyndham residents.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



The show takes the form of a panel discussion with general news, information and entertainment targeting the west's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

"There is still a huge amount of homophobia in the western suburbs," Alan said.

"But ... cheaper land prices have brought lots of gay people out to Wyndham and the gay community is huge out here. We have people from all walks of life who identify themselves as gay, from tradies to truckies.

"We feel we all need to talk to each other and target the western suburbs, and make it entertaining."

The guest panellist for the first show, which aired on Sunday, August 7, was outspoken priest and Victorian of the Year Father Bob Maguire.

REPORT PROBLEMS AS THEY APP-EN IN WYNDHAM

Wyndham Leader— 10th September 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/report-crime-as-it-app-ens/>

Wyndham residents are embracing new hi-tech tools to report graffiti, vandalism and other gripes to their council.

Mobile phone applications enable conscientious residents to report on the spot to the council by snapping a photo and sending it, complete with GPS positioning, via email.

Developer of the app, Snap, Send, Solve, Outware Mobile co-director Danny Groog said it took less than a minute to make a report.

He said Wyndham Council had received more than 126 complaints via the free iPhone app since January and a version for android phones would be available soon.

"From a user's perspective, it's super-effective, Mr Groog said.

"There really isn't a more convenient way to report a problem.

"And from the council's perspective, they have calls coming in where people are reporting the accurate information, the accurate location."

Council corporate services director Steven Lambert said a range of mobile reporting applications were "flooding the market" however, none were integrated with the council's systems.

"We recognise that this type of technology provides residents with a great way of communicating with the council and we are currently working with a service provider to enable integration with our existing systems," Mr Lambert said.

Facebook page Point Cook Residents United has become a popular forum for airing gripes.

"Feedback from residents is extremely important and we encourage people to get online at wyndham.vic.gov.au to report any issues," Mr Lambert said.

BOOK IN THIS PAGE-TURNING SWAP IN WERRIBEE

Wyndham Leader— 9th September 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/book-in-this-page-turning-swap-in-werribee/>

A book swap is on in Wyndham this weekend.

Residents have until Friday to drop off up to five pre-loved books at Werribee's Visitor Information Centre in Watton St.

They will get tokens for each book to swap for books this Saturday between 10am and 1pm at Werribee's piazza at the corner of Wedge and Watton streets.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



The book swap is being run by Werribee Chamber of Commerce as part of Wyndham Council's Sustainability Festival this week, culminating in an expo this Sunday.

NEW GIRAFFE ARRIVES TONIGHT

Wyndham Leader— 9th September 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/new-giraffe-arrives-tonight/>

Young giraffe Jelani will arrive in Melbourne tonight, earlier than expected.

The 18-month-old giraffe left Auckland on Monday and is expected to arrive at the docks about 10.30pm.

He is onboard JPO Scorpius, a Liberian cargo ship, with his keeper and a vet from Auckland Zoo.

His luggage is packed with his favourite food and boomer balls, which are a hardy ball toy for animals.

The ship has just passed Wilson's Promontory and is making its way to Port Melbourne.

Jelani's new home will be at Werribee Range Open Zoo.

HELP FOR WYNDHAM KIDS IN TROUBLE

Wyndham Leader— 9th September 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/help-for-wyndham-kids-in-trouble/>

John Weston has spent quite a lot of time in police stations over the past few months, usually about an hour a week.

Mr Weston, a volunteer with the Youth Referral and Independent Person Program, helps young people in police custody.

He sits in with young people who don't have a parent or guardian available when they are interviewed by police, provides them with legal information and refers them to other services for more help.

The statewide program operates in 108 police stations, including Werribee and Laverton, and will soon offer its service at Wyndham North.

Mr Weston, of Melton, said he became a program volunteer last October.

He wanted to help young people, intrinsically at a disadvantage once arrested.

"I'm the person who helps address that disadvantage," he said. "It's better to have somebody by the side of you.

"You are doing something for the police as well. The quicker you can be down there and be part of the process the quicker they can get the matter resolved."

The behaviour of some young people in such a stressful situation could be challenging but that police generally did a good job.

The program is looking for Wyndham volunteers and Mr Weston urged people to consider donating their time.

"The more people in that role, the better the service to the police station," he said.

A free information session will be held at 4pm on Wednesday, September 14, at Errington Community Centre, Princess St, St Albans.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



ACROSS THE REGION

ONELINK DEMANDS \$20 MILLION METCARD BONUS

The Age – 15th September 2011

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/onelink-demands-20-million-metcard-bonus-20110914-1k9q8.html>

The firm behind Melbourne's Metcard ticketing system has lodged a claim with the government demanding it pay it up to \$20 million extra for the system's performance over the past decade.

OneLink Transit Systems has operated the Metcard system for the state government since signing a contract in 1998. In May, according to the Transport Ticketing Authority's annual report tabled in Parliament yesterday, OneLink told the government that under a clause in its original contract it was eligible for the extra money.

This was because so many Metcards were now being successfully validated each year.

Advertisement: Story continues below

The authority has rejected OneLink's claim, saying its legal advice showed it did not have to pay all of the money claimed.

OneLink, which declined to comment yesterday, is now in dispute with the authority over the money.

■ The Baillieu government failed to produce in Parliament yesterday a confidential \$350,000 report by consultants Deloitte on the myki system. Government MPs had pledged to table the report by noon yesterday, after a request from Greens MP Greg Barber that was backed by the opposition.

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/onelink-demands-20-million-metcard-bonus-20110914-1k9q8.html#ixzz1Xy4h6Wbb>

JOIN CONSTRUCTION FIGHT, SAYS FORMER WATCHDOG

National Affairs – 13th September 2011

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/industrial-relations/join-construction-fight-says-former-watchdog/story-fn59noo3-1226135229333>

Former building industry watchdog John Lloyd has called on business to take up the challenge of fighting Victoria's militant building unions on key state construction projects.

Mr Lloyd yesterday strongly endorsed the Baillieu government's decision to give state-hired workplace investigators special powers to investigate building sites on government-backed projects.

The Australian revealed yesterday that the government planned to use the \$5.3 billion regional rail link project in Melbourne's western suburbs as a test case to contain costs.

This was part of the government's review of industrial relations principles that form part of the code of practice for the Victorian building and construction industry.

Mr Lloyd told The Australian that his experience as Australian building and construction commissioner was that unions had held governments to ransom on Victorian sites.

He said several major projects had suffered because of union activity including the \$5.7bn desalination plant at Wonthaggi east of Melbourne, the redevelopment of the Westgate Bridge and the Royal Children's Hospital development.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



Mr Lloyd left the ABCC a year ago. He is now the director of work reform and productivity at the Institute of Public Affairs.

"Any reluctance to resist strong-arm union tactics will diminish future opportunities for the Victorian economy to grow," he said.

Under the Victorian model, parties winning a tender to work on state-funded construction will have to agree to provide access for the new investigators.

The government is still working on its final policy and the special investigators will work in tandem with the ABCC, although the Victorian response is restricted to the terms of the contracts struck by the Baillieu government and tenderers.

Victorian opposition industrial relations spokesman Tim Pallas said the government was playing a dangerous game because it could become part of any dispute.

Mr Pallas said that under the previous Labor government the risks associated with union behaviour were the responsibility of the builder.

Bill Oliver, a secretary of the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, said the government wanted the death of unions. "We expect ill-conceived attacks on union members' working rights from the Liberal state government . . . The only people with an issue at the moment are the government's mates in the construction industry, so of course they will attempt to crack down on unions -- that's what they do."

WAIT ON RAIL COPS

Star– 13th September 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/313/story/140302.html>

Footscray will be the only station in the North West to receive protective service officers (PSOs) next year, while stations without toilets will be last on the list.

Victoria Police Acting Chief Commissioner Ken Lay said stations on the City Loop, North Melbourne, Richmond and Footscray would receive PSOs from February 2012.

Mr Lay said police intended to have two PSOs at every metropolitan station by 2014, but would not be placing the officers at stations without amenities like toilets.

"We're very keen in the first instance for the PSOs to have exposure to the big areas in a supportive environment," Mr Lay said.

"For the first 12 months they'll be in and around the city area.

"After that 12 month period we'll then start moving them out to the broader metropolitan area.

"We will not be expecting either PSOs or police members to be working in an environment where they haven't got access to a toilet."

At least 17 stations will need to be upgraded on the Craigieburn, Epping, Sydenham, Werribee and Williamstown lines for PSOs to be stationed there.

These stations include Altona, Seddon, Deer Park, Keilor Plains, Roxburgh Park, and Lalor railway station, where a sexual assault took place last month.

Police Minister Peter Ryan said it was a "basic occupational health and safety issue" to have PSOs stationed at areas without toilets.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



A Department of Transport spokesperson told Star they would be working with Metro and Victoria Police to “evaluate the existing facilities at the 212 metropolitan and four regional centres to determine the necessary improvements required”.

But the spokesperson gave no indication of the cost or time it would take to add toilets to all stations.

Delahey Action Group secretary David Anderson has been campaigning for better public transport in the West and said 2014 was “far too late” to roll out PSOs at suburban stations.

“We believe too much has been given to the east at the expense of the west,” Mr Anderson said.

“We don’t want more than the east we just want to be brought up to the same standard.”

While he welcomed the addition of toilets at all stations, he said the Government should also be providing shelter at all stations for the PSOs and commuters.

Earlier this month Western Metropolitan MP Bernie Finn told Parliament PSOs would be “an answer to a prayer” at Sunshine station, which he described as an unsafe “hell hole” for commuters.

Mr Finn told Star last week that he would be speaking to Mr Ryan about getting PSOs at Sunshine station before 2014.

“Sunshine is a high priority in terms of protecting commuters, given degree of crime and violent crime,” Mr Finn said.

But he said upgrading stations without toilets could take longer.

“You can’t have people standing on platforms until midnight without a toilet,” Mr Finn said.

“It’s not just a plus for the PSOs, but a plus for the commuters as well.”.

CAMPAIGN: 101 JOBS IN 101 DAYS

Leader– 12th August 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/campaign-help-us-find-101-jobs-in-101-days/>

Leader Newspapers has launched a landmark campaign to provide work for scores of young people across Melbourne.

Jobs 101 challenge local businesses to recruit 101 employees in 101 days.

The campaign will focus on providing apprenticeships and trainee positions to young people, but is also open to job seekers of all ages.

Jobs 101 is being run in partnership with the WPC Group, a non-profit group training organisation which recruits apprentices across a diverse range of industries.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has welcomed the initiative and urged employers to get on board.

“That’s 101 lives that can be transformed by the dignity and benefits that come from having work,” Ms Gillard said.

“For young people, traineeships are a great way to apply practical skills in the real world and to learn while you earn.”

Australia’s unemployment rate is sitting at 5 per cent, but national youth unemployment has soared to 23 per cent.

And in some parts of Melbourne it is higher than 55 per cent.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



At the same time, Australia faces a severe skills shortage and there is a desperate need to recruit apprentices, according to WPC Group chief executive Nicholas Wyman.

"We want to connect young people to these jobs," he said.

Mercedes-Benz Melbourne is the first company to back the Jobs 101 campaign, announcing plans to hire at least four apprentices before Christmas.

Over the coming months Leader will profile people who find work through Jobs 101 and celebrate companies willing to invest in the next generation of workers.

RAIL UNION STEPS UP METRO WAR AS COMMUTERS FACE DISTRUPTION PAIN

The Herald Sun— 9th September 2011

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/commuters-face-pain-as-metro-declares-war-on-train-drivers-union/story-fn7x8me2-1226132598288>

A rail union boss has hit back at "false charges" amid a war with Metro set to cause commuter chaos.

Metro has made a high risk bid to end the sabotage of services by targeting the train drivers' union.

Last night the rail provider filed an application with Fair Work Australia to have Rail, Tram and Bus Union locomotive division secretary Marc Marotta banned.

It follows a claim by Metro chief Andrew Lezala in April that some train drivers were on a deliberate "go-slow" designed to sabotage Metro's performance.

It also follows a Metro investigation into claims of assault at the Epping train depot in June.

Today, Mr Marotta refuted the allegations against him, saying they are false.

"Anybody who has false charges made against them, of course it's upsetting," Mr Marotta told the ABC.

"It's intended to intimidate and stop me from using the instruments available, that's the industrial agreement and Fair Work Australia legislation, to win my members rights in the workplace."

Mr Marotta told the ABC he had not been told about the allegations until they contacted him, despite not returning phone calls from the Herald Sun since last night.

He said Metro's action was desperate.

"I think it's desperate because we've taken Metro to Fair Work Australia three weeks ago and they've been given directions to go and work through an industrial agreement," he said.

"That wasn't in their plan and they were particularly upset about having to go through that process."

The dispute means Melbourne's rail system will become the latest battleground in an increasingly bitter fight pitting the rail operator and Baillieu Government against the unions.

Transport sources fear the move could provoke wildcat industrial action - including possible walk-outs, more "go-slows" and bogus fault reports - which could cripple or severely undermine services.

The Baillieu Government, which has backed the Metro move, has launched a separate crackdown on what it calls union thuggery and intimidation on the \$5 billion Regional Rail Link project.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



But the public transport advocate says Metro and the unions should sort out their dispute off the train tracks.

"Passengers would be hoping that Metro and the union can sort this out peacefully," Public transport users association president Daniel Bowen said.

"The last thing that we would want to see is industrial action that could disrupt passengers."

He said any service changes or cancellations could be debilitating to passengers and transport in the city.

"Shutting down railway lines is like shutting down freeways, if it were to get to that."

Metro spokeswoman Leah Waymark said the Fair Work Australia application had been made because of serious allegations.

"Our employees should be able to come to work and be treated with respect," Ms Waymark said.

The allegations were disturbing and, if true, the company had an obligation to protect its workers.

An industry source said the move could be provocative.

"A private operator has never taken on the unions like this before. They might go quiet, or there might instead be an angry backlash," the source said.

Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder last night demanded swift action.

"These are extremely serious allegations and Fair Work Australia will need to deal with them as soon as possible," Mr Mulder said.

"Train drivers are respected members of the community with highly responsible jobs and the public rely on their integrity and professionalism."

The Herald Sun believes a police investigation into the alleged assault in June resulted in no charges.

If Fair Work Australia revoked Mr Marotta's right of entry he would be unable to conduct union meetings on railway property.

As work continues on the rail link, the Government yesterday told companies bidding for work on the project they must allow its inspectors on site or they would not get the job.

Australian Workers Union secretary Cesar Melhem, who has brokered agreements with Regional Rail Link bidders, said the Government should stop bashing unions.

"It's hypocritical of this Government to attack unions. They should butt out," he said.

"The only reason they are doing this for political point-scoring. It's a throwback to the days of the waterfront dispute."

LeadWest Ltd PO Box 2382 FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011 Tel: +61 3 9317 5794 Fax: +61 3 9317 0721

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

16th September 2011



LeadWest is on Twitter as LeadWestLtd



LeadWest is on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/LeadWest/181767638522310>



LeadWest is on LinkedIn at

<http://www.linkedin.com/company/1917641?trk=tyah>