

LEADWEST MEMBERS HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2011



AGENDA 1: EDUCATION & SKILLS

Local Employment Coordinator

LeadWest's CEO met with the new Local Employment Coordinator for North-west Melbourne, Mr Terry Kennedy. Melbourne's west continues to register higher levels of unemployment than the metropolitan average as well as having lower rates of jobs creation.

Learn Local NW Board meeting

LeadWest CEO as part of the Western region committee attended the community grants funding round deliberations held at DPCD.

Working with WynBay LLEN

LeadWest's CEO attended the regular monthly board meeting of the Wyndham and Hobsons Bay Local Learning and Employment Network.

AGENDA 2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & JOBS

Melton Business Breakfast

LeadWest joined over 100 key Melton based businesses at breakfast where the theme was innovation and growth. The event was hosted by the Shire of Melton with presentations by Australand, AusIndustry and Council's economic development unit.

Big West Festival

LeadWest's CEO met with representatives of the Big West Festival to offer support. The Big West festival is actively supported by key organisations in the inner west, such as Maribyrnong City Council and Footscray Community Arts Centre. It is a showcase event for the inner west.

AGENDA 3: TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

West Gate Ramps – Truck Action

LeadWest joined other key stakeholders in the inner west at a community forum to call on the Victorian Government to develop solutions to address the issue of heavy truck traffic in the inner west.

Freight Week – Agenda Day

LeadWest's CEO attended the National Freight Conference's Agenda Day. Melbourne's road, rail and seaports are experiencing enormous growth pressure. Congestion of roads is a major issue in our cities. Freight infrastructure is in serious need of improvement in order to gain efficiencies but to also restore residential amenity. An additional key area of debate was the possible trial of high productivity vehicles on selected routes in metropolitan Melbourne.

AGENDA 4: HEALTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Western Health in Sunshine

LeadWest's Chairman arranged for LeadWest members to visit the recently opened Western Centre for Health Research and Education at Sunshine Hospital. The state of the art facility received significant funding from the Australian Government and Victorian Government and is a collaborative effort between Western Health, Melbourne University and Victoria University.

Community Health Screening

The Project Reference Group held its fourth meeting prior to implementation of the community health screening sessions at Centrelink offices in Sunshine, Footscray and Werribee. The WMRDA's Community Health Screening initiative is progressing well. By the end of September

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almost 700 people had used the screening service. There has been a good balance between males and females and there have also been some medical referrals and a couple of cases of "immediate medical attention needed".

Western Stories at ACMI

LeadWest accepted an invitation from Terry Bracks and the Board of Western Chances, together with the Board of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, to the screening of Western Stories: Expressions for the Future, an inspirational collection of works from young people who, through their association with Western Chances, have been given the chance to develop their skills with ACMI's Digital Storytelling Workshop and build their own Bridge to the Future.

Australian Community Centre for Diabetes - Leadership Group

LeadWest's CEO attended the ACCD forum to address issues in respect of

the high rates of diabetes in Melbourne's west.

Brimbank Social Justice Coalition

LeadWest is an active member of the Brimbank Social Justice Coalition, which is a forum for Brimbank City Council, community organisations and service providers to work collaboratively on issues that diminish the health and wellbeing of community members in Brimbank and to develop joint advocacy, service and project development. LeadWest's Manager of Business & Projects participated in the Working Group focused on Education, Employment and Industry.

Age Care Reform

LeadWest participated in a 'Conversation on Ageing' with the Hon Nicola Roxon and the Hon Mark Butler at a well attended event in the Australian Light Foundation's facility at Tottenham. The Hon Mark Butler is Minister for Mental Health and Ageing and he outlined then field

questions on the findings of the Productivity Commission's draft report 'Caring for Older Australians' (which will provide the Australian Government with key advice on the direction of aged care reform).

AGENDA 5: ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & IMAGE

New Werribee Community NRM Coordinator

LeadWest's Manager Business and Projects met with Mr William Hogg, the new Werribee Community NRM Coordinator working with Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority, taking the opportunity to provide a briefing on the Werribee River Biolinks Action Plan project and also on the broader Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework.

Climate Change Conference

LeadWest attended an international conference on implementing effective Climate Change policies hosted by Victoria University. The forum showcased a variety of clean technologies increasingly adopted around the world.

Alternative Water Strategy

Congratulations to Brimbank Council and City West Water on winning the award for excellence in Strategic Water Planning from Stormwater Victoria for the Brimbank Alternative Water Strategy. LeadWest's CEO was part of the Vision for Werribee Plains grants panel that was able to provide approximately \$1 million in funding over three projects.

Wyndham Sustainability Festival

As part of its regional sustainability agenda, LeadWest sponsored the Wyndham Sustainability Breakfast and also attended the Business Breakfast associated with the festival. Keynote speaker at the

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breakfast was the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability. A number of related events occurred throughout Wyndham showcasing the latest in sustainable development.

Community Sport Hall Opening

LeadWest joined other western region organisations at the official opening of the Community Sports Hall located at Whitten Oval and operated by Victoria University. The state of the art facility will provide dedicated world class facilities for community based team sport covering basketball, netball, volleyball and badminton. The official opening was undertaken by the Hon Nicola Roxon.

University Hill Precinct Visit

LeadWest arranged a visit for its Directors of the MAB development located at University Hill in Bundoora. The University Hill precinct has attracted strong commercial and retail investment

into the north of Melbourne and acted as a catalyst for jobs growth.

Monash Science Technology Research & Innovation Precinct Visit

LeadWest arranged for Directors to attend both a briefing and site tour of the Monash Innovation Precinct. The Monash strip has acted as a catalyst in attracting significant funding from governments to support advancements in biotechnologies, nano-technologies and other science conducted through the Australian Synchrotron. LeadWest attendees were also able to be briefed on the evolution of the precinct and the level of government support received.

Marketing Maribyrnong

LeadWest's Manager Business and Projects met with Ms Jo Taylor of JadeTree who is consulting Maribyrnong City Council on marketing strategies for the municipality and for Footscray.

City West Water Board Forum

LeadWest's CEO joined other key western region stakeholders & business leaders at a City West Water convened strategy forum. CWW outlined key elements of their strategic plan with emphasis on customer service.

AGENDA 6: TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

Arts Incubator for the West

LeadWest and RDA have expressed their joint support in looking at the development of an Arts based incubator in Melbourne's west. Increasingly artists are being attracted to the region and the sector is seen as offering strong growth potential.

AGENDA 7: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Western Region CEOs Meeting

LeadWest joined the CEOs of councils in Melbourne's west at their September meeting hosted by Wyndham Council. Key issues discussed included:

- Transport imperatives for Melbourne's west
- Regional Management Forums
- Western Alliance For Greenhouse Action (WAGA)

Melton Council Presentation

LeadWest's Chairman and CEO provided a briefing to Melton Shire Council and the Council's executive team on LeadWest's operational outcomes for the past year as well as an overview on the strategic priorities for the future.

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Western Melbourne RDA

LeadWest CEO joined other WMRDA Committee Members at their September meeting, which was hosted by Western Health. Key issues addressed covered:

- Better Health Plan for the West draft report.
- Feasibility study for a General Purpose Business Incubator in the West, as well as an Arts based incubator
- Appointment of Additional WMRDA Committee members.

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