

LEADWEST MEMBERS HIGHLIGHT REPORT

OCTOBER 2011



AGENDA 1: EDUCATION & SKILLS

Employer Champion Awards

LeadWest has supported YouthNow's Employer Champion Awards which celebrates the significant contribution businesses make by offering workplace learning opportunities to enhance the future prospects of our young people in secondary schools, community learning centres and TAFEs in Melbourne's west.

National Skills Week

LeadWest's team joined other key LeadWest members – the WPC Group and Victoria University – participating in a National Skills Week forum that addressed the skills imperatives of the 21st Century. The forum was officially opened by the Hon Peter Hall, Victoria's Minister for Higher Education and Skills and Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession.

E-Learning

LeadWest joined other regional stakeholders to participate in a roundtable discussion on the likely impacts of e-Learning on Universities. A keynote address was given by the Hon Lindsay Tanner and touched upon the challenges facing Universities in meeting the challenges posed by the internet and e-Learning.

Suzanne Cory High School

LeadWest's Chairman and CEO met with Mr Peter Starford, the principal of the Suzanne Cory High School in Wyndham. Opened this year, Suzanne Cory High School is one of the four selective entry state high schools in Victoria and the first located in Melbourne's west. It is a welcome addition to the education offering available to the region's communities.

Victoria University Business Forum

LeadWest's CEO joined the leaders of major businesses in Melbourne's west at a forum convened by Victoria University at its Sunshine campus. Victoria University briefed attendees on the range of business improvement courses on offer.

Funds for SEED Project

Federal Employment Participation Minister the Hon Kate Ellis MP announced \$150,000 funding for the Sustainable Employment and Economic Development (SEED) youth project. The Australian Government's funding support will help grow and extend the coverage of SEED project, which started as an initiative designed to provide career support for young people within the City of Moonee Valley. It is being expanded across Melbourne's inner west with Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Moonee Valley and Hobson's Bay all committing to the Project.

Learn Local Strategy Forum

LeadWest's CEO joined other Learn Local Directors at a strategy meeting to develop the Learn Local Program for Melbourne's western suburbs. The Learn Local initiative provides funding support to community organisations to assist in the development of skills for mature-aged members of the community.

AGENDA 2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & JOBS

Industry & Jobs Growth Study

LeadWest and the Western Melbourne RDA are funding a study of Industry and Jobs Growth in Melbourne's west. Consultants appointed to undertake the study - SGS Economics - have commenced their preliminary consultation process.

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Submission on Small Business

LeadWest responded to the Victorian Government's discussion paper on small business. LeadWest applauded the Victorian Government's recognition of the vital contribution that small businesses make to Victoria's economy and pointed out what would assist small business growth and prosperity in Melbourne's west. LeadWest used the opportunity to seek support for a General Purpose Small Business Incubator in the region. The submission can be downloaded from LeadWest's website:

www.leadwest.com.au/Reports.php
#

Bigger Victorian Business Centre in Melbourne's west

The Victorian Department of Business and Innovation is significantly expanding the scope of operations and staff numbers that support business in Melbourne's

west. The Victorian Business Centre Sunshine has proven to be too small, so the team is being relocated to Central West Business Park on Ashley Street in West Footscray.

AGENDA 3: TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Maribyrnong's Transport Vision

LeadWest joined other community leaders in a forum to discuss the transport imperatives facing the inner west in light of the significantly changing land-use patterns in Maribyrnong.

LeadWest meets with Telstra

LeadWest met with Telstra to discuss its ongoing strategies for the provision of telecommunications services in Melbourne's west. As a key provider of retailer services Telstra is working closely with NBN Co on the transitional arrangements for new telecommunications

infrastructure into this rapidly growing region.

NBN Rollout to Melton

Melton has been selected as one of the sites for the next stage of the high-speed National Broadband Network. NBN Co released its 12-month rollout plan with Melton, Ballarat, Tullamarine and the Melbourne CBD to be added to existing sites across Australia including Bacchus Marsh, which was part of the early rollout.

The network will provide speeds of up to 100 megabits per second (Mbps) to 2600 Melton residents and businesses, which will be able to buy broadband packages from one of 28 providers.

Western Transport Alliance

LeadWest joined other WTA members at their October meeting. Key issues addressed included:

- Draft Transport Strategy

- Development of a WTA/LeadWest transport advocacy strategy
- Freight issues and High Productivity Vehicles
- Project updates on Westlink, Regional Rail, Truck Action Plan, Metro Rail Tunnel and Airport Rail Link.

AGENDA 4: HEALTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HeadSpace Centres

LeadWest has welcomed the Australian Government's continued support of the HeadSpace program and welcomed the announcement of a further 15 centres across the nation. LeadWest has continued to advocate to the Australian Government that the western suburbs of Melbourne would also benefit from additional centres within the region.

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Community Health Screening

LeadWest joined other WMRDA Committee Members and regional stakeholders at the launch of the Community Health Screening Program. Federal Health Minister the Hon Nicola Roxon MP complimented the WMRDA on this outstanding initiative, which provides free and confidential health screening to Centrelink clients across the western suburbs. The joint WMRDA, CentreLink and University of Melbourne initiative has delivered nearly 2000 health screening tests across the region.

Conversation on Ageing

LeadWest met with both the Hon Nicola Roxon MP and the Hon Mark Butler MP (Minister for Mental Health and Ageing) on issues in respect of the recently released Productivity Commission inquiry into aged care "Caring for Older Australians".

Western Region Health Centre

LeadWest CEO participated in the WRHC forum to chart the strategic direction for one of the inner west's key health service providers.

Medicare Locals Planning Forum

LeadWest joined key western suburb Allied Health providers in a Westgate GP Network convened forum to plan for one of the region's western suburb Medicare Local.

AGENDA 5: ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & IMAGE

Planning Forum

LeadWest joined other Committee For Melbourne members in a boardroom briefing by Bernard Salt on the key planning issues facing Melbourne in the wake of the city re-balancing west. The emphasis of the forum was Melbourne as a polycentric-city and the imperative of creating jobs where people live.

Clean Energy Future

LeadWest met with the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. Implications of the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future package were discussed.

Werribee River Biolink

The Werribee River Biolink Action Plan Project aims to provide a long-term plan for the Werribee River as a regional biolink. The project area extends along the Werribee River and adjacent lands between the State Forest at Korweinguboora and the river mouth.

Project progress to date has been very good and going according to plan.

As a follow-up to the site visits conducted in September, LeadWest's Manager Business & Projects completed a walking tour of a 10km section of the Werribee River

through Western Water managed land and some private land (with owner consents). Photographs taken of this section of the river have been published on LeadWest's Facebook page.

KBR, the consultants on the project, have gathered data and prepared a draft Desktop report with a set of preliminary maps.

Members of the National Wildlife Corridor Plan Advisory Group were advised of the project in anticipation that some future funds for Werribee Biolink projects may become available under the Biodiversity Fund unlocked with passage of the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future package.

Kororoit and Skeleton Creeks Catchment River Health Seminar

LeadWest's Manager Business and Projects attended a River Health Seminar hosted by Melbourne Water and focused on the Kororoit Creek and Skeleton Creek Catchment.

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Presentations covered native fish, plant species, management of endangered species and revegetation on Kororoit Creek. There were guest speakers from Hobsons Bay Council and Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek.

Kororoit Creek Walking Trail

The Vision for Werribee Plains was proud to be a partner in this project through supporting Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek. The reserve will give pleasure to local residents and visitors for many years to come.

Point Cook Recycled Water

The sporting grounds and open spaces of Wyndham's fastest growing suburb, Point Cook, will now have secure access to water from the Western Treatment Plant.

Opening the project, Minister for Water, the Hon Peter Walsh MLA, said "the \$2.6 million project is imperative for one of Australia's

fastest growing communities that thrives on sport."

The water will provide a secure source of irrigation for public ovals and open spaces and, reduce demand on potable water supplies.

The Point Cook Recycled Water Main was a joint project between the Department of Sustainability and Environment – Vision for Werribee Plains, Wyndham City Council and City West Water.

AGENDA 6: TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

A Brand for Melbourne's West

LeadWest's CEO joined other stakeholders in Melbourne's west at a forum to address the development of an "image/branding" strategy for the region. Hosted by the Hon Steve Bracks AC as Patron of Western Melbourne Tourism, the attendees scoped out alternative branding

options for Melbourne's west and funding options to underpin the regional marketing strategy.

Western Melbourne Tourism

LeadWest's CEO met with the newly appointed Chair of Western Melbourne Tourism to discuss areas of cooperation and joint initiatives to raise the profile of the western suburbs as a tourism destination.

2011 Melton Plate

LeadWest attended the Melton Plate as guests of Melton Shire Council. As the race itself was not run due to heavy rains, the event became an even better opportunity to network with stakeholders in Melton and Melbourne's west more broadly.

AGENDA 7: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Community Cabinet in the West

LeadWest has been successful in securing the holding of an Australian Government Community Cabinet Meeting in Melbourne's west. On Wednesday 9th November 2011, Werribee host the Federal Cabinet with an extensive array of consultations being held in the afternoon prior to that event. LeadWest has prepared a regional priorities paper for tabling at a forum where Mayors of the region's local governments will again meet with the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers.

LeadWest's AGM and Strategic Forum for Melbourne's West

LeadWest is finalising arrangements for both its AGM and the associated Strategic Forum for Melbourne's west. Set to be held in the afternoon on Friday 11th November, the venue

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for these events will be the West Water Hotel in Caroline Springs.

Western Region Planning Directors Meetings

LeadWest is participating in the Western Region Planning Directors' Meetings, which are facilitated by WMRDA. The first meeting was held in early October. Discussions covered the group's Draft Terms of Reference, a regional approach to the Metropolitan Melbourne Planning Review, current and past regional plans, and business incubators in Melbourne's west.

LeadWest and Local Media

LeadWest has been achieving significant media coverage in respect

of key regional issues. Major media interest has been associated with

- Impacts of a carbon price on business
- Transport imperatives for Melbourne's west
- Parking at railway stations including bicycle parking.

Local media have also been picking up and "re-tweeting" information that LeadWest conveys via its Twitter account.

LeadWest's Website & Social Media

Visits to LeadWest's website have increased considerably over the past year. In October there were 1,270 unique visitors to LeadWest's website, up from 1,118 in September. LeadWest's Twitter account now has 187 "followers" and our Facebook Page had reached

19,273 "post views" at the end of October.



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>

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