

Media Release



Business Excellence Winder 2008 – Feature Page 9

Bridging the East West Divide – By Anton Mayer

Leadwest fosters and undertakes actions to support sustainable growth and development in the western region.

The Board of LeadWest has welcomed the Eddington Report as a dramatic demonstration of the west's need for a massive increase in expenditure on transport infrastructure and congratulated Sir Rod Eddington and his team on the broad recommendations for addressing the west's transport shortcomings.

Hon Ralph Willis, Chair of LeadWest, said that the transport blueprint emphasizes that the current 'significant east west divide' in availability of transport infrastructure is reducing opportunities for jobs and business growth in the west – and if not rectified, threatens to result in a "lock-out" of the west from the economic development occurring in the rest of Melbourne.

"The adoption of a multi modal solution to address such a complex issue was a key element of the report, and it goes some way toward addressing the capacity limitation of the present transport system in coping with the unprecedented growth the west is undergoing," he said.

LeadWest fully concurs with this assessment in a situation where both its key road and rail infrastructure is reaching capacity levels in peak travel periods.

Recent years have witnessed unprecedented population growth in the key western councils of Melton, Wyndham and Brimbank, highlighting the clear fact that the west is accommodating a greater share of Melbourne's growth.

The focus has now moved well beyond the debate as to whether the western region needs additional transport capacity, but more towards the modal mix required to deliver optimum outcomes and how it will be paid for.

*Anton Mayer is the Chief Executive Officer of LeadWest Ltd
www.leadwest.com.au*