



January 2010

LeadWest CEO meets with new Executive of Committee for Wyndham

LeadWest's CEO met with Mr. Nik Tsardakis, the newly appointed Executive Officer of the Committee for Wyndham. As a key local advocacy body serving the growing communities in Wyndham, the Committee for Wyndham was keen to partner with LeadWest in order to promote the interests of the rapidly growing outer western centres.

LeadWest will explore areas of mutual support with the CfW during 2010 and meet regularly with their EO.

Star News Group to Launch Business Magazine for the West

LeadWest CEO met with the Star Newspaper group to discuss the development and circulation of a business magazine for the western suburbs

entitled. The "Business West" magazine will be published 8 times a year in a glossy A4 magazine format and provide news, support, and advice, advertising and business opportunities.

The publication will focus on local people and local companies making news and the leaders spearheading the West's astonishing growth.

LeadWest CEO attends Westlink Community Reference Group meeting

LeadWest joined other key western community stakeholders at the inaugural meeting of Westlink. The

Westlink project involves a tunnel linking Dynon and Footscray Roads in the POM precinct with Geelong and

Sunshine Road in West Footscray. This will be then extended to make a connection with the Western Ring Road. Its aim is to significantly reduce the number of trucks using local streets, improve access for heavy vehicles to the POM and provide an alternate crossing of the Maribyrnong River.

LeadWest assists Victoria University with Clinical Training & Teaching Grants

LeadWest is supporting Victoria University funding bid to support both a Clinical Training and Teaching for Health.

VU is keen to develop holistic, multi-disciplinary clinical training programs centred in the west. VU would like to build facilities and add extra capacity to extend the reach and coverage of this important area of need for the west.

LeadWest CEO attended Victorian Transport Plan Briefing

LeadWest CEO participated in a Transport Forum addressing key features of the Victorian Transport Plan with particular relevance to Melbourne's western suburbs.

2010 hopes to see major progress being made in delivering key aspects of the VTP particularly as they relate to the west i.e. the Regional Rail Link, Westlink, Truck Action Plan, M1 and M80 upgrades, etc.

LeadWest CEO participates in Office of Knowledge Capital Forum on Regional Economic Development

LeadWest CEO joined other key stakeholders at an OKC convened meeting which addressed the roles major education institutions can have in driving regional economic development and supporting industry transition as well as driving innovation and raising productivity.

LeadWest assists with Western Region Social Inclusion Project

LeadWest CEO met with Victoria University and other western region stakeholders to assist with the Western Regional Inclusion Project and to secure government funding.

LeadWest on Advisory Committee for “Keep Australia Working”

LeadWest CEO joined other key western region stakeholders on the “Keep Australia Working Forum” committee sponsored by DEEWR. The Committee is set up to develop a regional employment strategy and oversee Federal Government funding initiatives in support of employment programs. LeadWest has hosted a number of Committee meetings.

WynBay LLEN push for Trade Centre Application

LeadWest has supported an application by Wyndham and Hobsons Bay Local and Employment Network (LLEN) in their submission to DEEWR seeking funding for the two Trade Training Centres in the WynBay LLEN region with one located in Wyndham and the other in Hobsons Bay. The Trade Training Centres will train young people in traditional trades in skill shortage areas.

Issues that address the delivery of youth support facilities are seen as a key priority for LeadWest

and its stakeholders. If, as a region, the west is going to address growing levels of anti social behaviour, then creating both job opportunities and pathways to support our youth are vital.

LeadWest members will be flagging this issue with Federal Minister for Youth, Hon. Kate Ellis when western suburbs Council representatives visit Canberra in mid March 2010.

February 2010

LeadWest Executive to brief Council Members

LeadWest Chair and CEO will undertake a series of briefings of councillors and executives from member Councils outlining LeadWest business plan outcomes over the past 6 months and highlight key priorities for 2010.

Age Supplement – ‘Rising in the West’

Feedback received from key western stakeholders has highlighted the success and positive impact of the Sunday Age “Rising in the West” supplement published on the 7th February. The supplement put the spotlight on the vast array of positive developments taking place in the western suburbs.

Vision for Werribee Plains Grants Program

LeadWest, in partnership with other Grants selection panel members, convened a meeting to assess a range of erstwhile applications from organizations across the western suburbs seeking to address a range of sustainability imperatives.

This key State Government program has \$10M funding being applied to support projects across the western suburbs that embrace best practice in driving environmentally sustainable development.

LeadWest CEO attends Committee for Wyndham briefing on Water

LeadWest CEO joined 30 other key regional stakeholders at a business breakfast forum hosted by the Committee for Wyndham.

Focusing on the western suburbs and Werribee’s future water issues, the address by the CEO of Southern Rural Water proved most thought provoking and attracted much interest.

LeadWest participates in Maribyrnong Economic & Industrial Development Strategy

LeadWest CEO participated in the key stakeholder consultation process to help shape the MCC Economic & Industrial Development Strategy.

The Footscray CBD will undergo a major transformation over the coming years as major

transport related infrastructure and its status as a Central Activity District (CAD) drives growth and supports development. Footscray has the real potential to become a key service centre supporting the growth of the western suburbs with opportunities to create more service sector job opportunities.

LeadWest attends Briefing on Australian Economy by Dr Ken Henry

LeadWest CEO attended a luncheon briefing on the challenges facing the Australian Economy delivered by Dr Ken Henry, Secretary of the Australian Treasury.

Whilst Australia has fared relatively well compared to other developed economies (particularly in protecting jobs) challenges nonetheless remain, particularly relating to raising productivity, tax reform and addressing issues that flow from changing demographics and an ageing population.

LeadWest on Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council (VRBPTAC)

LeadWest has been appointed to the VRBPTAC by the Hon Tim Pallas, Minister for Roads and Ports and the Minister for Public Transport. The Advisory Council will address key issues impacting upon road based public transport. Key issues include –

- Council workshops on key road based public transport
- Pedestrian Access Strategy
- Improved Tram and Bus Lane Compliance
- Road space and road-use hierarchy
- Greater separation for tram/bus lanes and general traffic lanes
- Promote benefits and perception of public transport
- Facilitate the greater sharing of full-time tram lanes by buses.

LeadWest participates in development of Brimbank Learning Strategy

LeadWest was delighted to be able to participate and contribute further to the development of a Learning Strategy for Brimbank City Council. The initial draft of the Strategy was passed to the Council and a community meeting to discuss the draft was held at the Victoria University Convention Centre in Sunshine.

Westgate Community Wind Farm project gathers momentum

LeadWest is supporting the Maribyrnong City Council led initiative to progress the establishment of a community windfarm at the base of the Westgate Bridge by joining its steering committee.

Australia Community Centre for Diabetes (ACCD)

As part of the ACCD Leadership Group, LeadWest joined other group members and key western region health sector stakeholders in launching the Diabetes Report on Melbourne's Western suburbs. Victorian Premier, Hon John Brumby, officiated at the launch which was held at the Whitten Oval in front of 50 invited guests and media.

The Report highlighted the fact that the western suburbs of Melbourne are in the midst of a diabetes epidemic with the region having the highest prevalence of diabetes in the whole of Melbourne.

Vision for Maribyrnong Defence Site

LeadWest CEO joined other key regional stakeholders in a Forum to develop a shared vision for the Maribyrnong Defence Site. The iconic 140 hectare site has the potential to be a neighbourhood that embraces excellence in urban design and environmental sustainability and given its strategic location, represents a showcase development representing the best of the west.

LeadWest CEO visits DP World

LeadWest CEO joined other members of the Western Transport Alliance in a visit of the DP World facilities in the Port of Melbourne. The port precinct is a major generator of economic

prosperity for Melbourne and is experiencing rapid growth. Melbourne's western suburbs have witnessed a surge in transport/logistics business locating in the west to support this growth.

Economic Development Officers Forum at Wyndham Council

LeadWest attended the Western Suburbs Forum of Council Economic Development Officers and briefed attendees of regional imperatives. The Forum was also used to develop a range of events designed to support business attraction and growth in the west.

Victorian Transport Initiatives luncheon briefing by Hon. Tim Pallas

LeadWest CEO attended a private luncheon focusing on Victoria's transport initiatives addressed by the Hon Tim Pallas.

LeadWest Board briefed on Regional Development Australia (RDA) Initiative

The LeadWest Board was briefed by executives from the Victorian Government charged with rolling out the Regional Development Australia program across Victoria.

An RDA office will be established serving Melbourne's NW and Advisory Boards have been set up. LeadWest CEO is on the Advisory Board for RDA Western Metro Melbourne. The RDA program

has the potential to support initiatives than can assist with the further development of Melbourne's west.

\$3350 Apprentice Kickstart Bonus

LeadWest has provided support in promoting the Australian Government's Kickstart Bonus scheme which more than tripled the first year incentive (from \$1500 to \$4850) for employers of apprentices up to 19 years of age who undertake training in a skills shortage trade.

LeadWest met with WynBay LLEN Executives

LeadWest CEO met with the Executive Director of the WynBay LLEN in order to explore areas of mutual cooperation. LeadWest also participated in WynBay LLEN Stakeholder Engagement Workshop designed to support the LLENs Business Plan Priority Projects development.

LeadWest participates in "Shaping Melbourne Taskforce" convened by Committee for Melbourne

LeadWest CEO joined other key stakeholders for a briefing and update on Shaping Melbourne Taskforce activities for 2010 including key themes emerging from the Taskforce's report and plans for engagement with Committee for Melbourne members and other key decision makers including government, business and the wider community.

The briefing was hosted by key LeadWest member – Telstra.

March 2010

LeadWest to auspice the establishment of a Western Region Sustainability Group

Under the vision for Werribee Plains initiative a Western regional sustainability framework report was developed to serve as a blueprint in assisting key regional bodies to take actions appropriate to supporting sustainable development covering energy, water & bio diversity.

LeadWest will auspice the setting up of a western region sustainability group with representatives drawn from councils and other key regional bodies eg Victoria University, City West Water etc to ensure the key findings imbedded in the sustainability framework report are pursued.

LeadWest Chair attends Victoria University Achievement Scholars Awards

LeadWest chair joined Prof Elizabeth Harman the VC of Victoria University to welcome VU's first achievement scholars.

In 2010 VU has introduced an ambitious new scholarship program targeted at high achieving students drawn from secondary schools in the western region

LeadWest CEO attends Western Chances Scholarships Award Ceremony

LeadWest CEO joined other community leaders with a shared passion for supporting disadvantaged youth pursue their educational aspirations at the Western Chances Scholarship Award ceremony hosted by Victoria University.

LeadWest is a sponsor of Western Chances and their efforts at supporting disadvantaged youth in the western region are to be commended.

LeadWest attends launch of Public Internet Access Program (PIAP)

LeadWest CEO attended the launch of the PIAP which is a Victorian government initiative assisting community organisations to provide free or affordable public internet access to its members.

The Hon Lilly D'Ambrosio, Minister for Community Development joined Hon Marsha Thomson State member for Footscray and other guests at the Australian Light Foundation community centre in Tottenham.

LeadWest attends launch of "Pathways to Sustainability – Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework"

LeadWest CEO joined other key regional stakeholders at the launch of the Western Region

Environment Sustainability Framework Report. The launch was chaired by LeadWest Director, Anne Barker the CEO of City West Water.

The report, funded by the Vision for Werribee Plains program, highlights key imperatives on the sustainability front and suggests a possible range of actions that could be embraced to deliver on this important regional issue.

LeadWest supports EPA and Councils with Dust Issues

LeadWest Ltd acknowledges the community concern over the dust problems in the Brooklyn area, as identified by the Department of Health and EPA and has supported the EPA and western councils in requesting VicRoads, as matter of priority, secure funding in order to upgrade, repair and seal a number of roads in Brooklyn including Bunting and Jones Roads that have caused health issues due to dust.

LeadWest executive to brief Council members

LeadWest Chair and CEO will undertake a series of briefings of Councillors and executives from member Councils outlining LeadWest's business plan outcomes over the last 6 months and highlight key priorities for 2010.

Western Region Councils and LeadWest delegation to Canberra

A delegation, comprising the Mayors and CEO's of the Western Suburbs Councils, visited Canberra on 16 March seeking support for a range of key projects of significance to the rapidly growing communities of the west.

The visit that was coordinated by LeadWest was led by LeadWest Chair Hon Ralph Willis. The delegation had the opportunity to meet with key ministers and MP's whose portfolio responsibilities covered such key imperatives for the west as Education and Skills, Health, Telecommunications infrastructure, Transportation and Economic Development and Employment.

Key projects highlighted included support for the ongoing redevelopment of the Sunshine Hospital. Support for key transport imperatives such as the:

- Melbourne Metro Rail Tunnel
- Melton Rail Upgrade
- WestLink/ Westgate Bridge Alternate Road Tunnel
- Truck Action Plan
- Western Inter-modal Freight Terminal.

Support was also sought for assistance in the Education area such as the Victoria University Health Training facility at St Albans as well as much needed Trade Training Centres to underpin the

national skills shortages in trades and emerging industries.

The Western Councils' aspirations to drive the sustainability agenda were highlighted by seeking funding support for a number of key storm water capture initiatives as well as the pressing issue of efficient street lighting. Support for a range of community infrastructure projects were also tabled ranging from community centres and leisure facility upgrades covering both the inner and outer west



April 2010

LeadWest Directors Strategy Meeting to be hosted by Nufarm in April

LeadWest Directors held their annual Strategy Meeting at Nufarm offices in Laverton in April 2010. The Strategy Meeting harvests Directors' creative input in shaping the future direction of LeadWest and highlights key issues that need to be incorporated in the organisations 2010-2011 Business Plan.

Directors were able to draw upon the breadth of information collected at the LeadWest Regional Stakeholder Strategy Forum held at Melton on November 2009.

CEO Briefs The GPT Group

LeadWest Chair and CEO participated in a GPT Property Group (owners of Highpoint) planning workshop and provided an extensive briefing to 50 senior company representatives on key aspects driving the changing face of the west with particular reference to the rapid paced population growth and the ensuing significant investment in transport infrastructure being rolled out to support this growth.

LeadWest supports Melton Business Excellence Awards

LeadWest was pleased to support the Melton Business Awards aimed at recognising and fostering excellence across a variety of categories. LeadWest's Sarah Diamond was actively involved in judging a number of business award categories and was most impressed by the enthusiasm shown by local businesses in embracing these awards.

LeadWest sponsors Economic Development Australia (EDA) – Victorian Conference

As part of its commitment to support local jobs growth, LeadWest has joined with its key member

Councils in sponsoring the EDA Victorian Conference to be held at Moonee Valley Racing Club on the 21st of April.