



Leadership for the West

14 May 2009

### **Federal Budget Impact on Melbourne's West**

The LeadWest Board and Chairman, the Honourable Ralph Willis, has unanimously applauded the Rudd Government's budget announcement of \$3.2 billion to fund the Regional Rail Link and the record \$62.1 billion investment in Australian schools.

"The Federal Government has recognised that Melbourne's West, encompassing the two fastest growing municipalities in Australia, required substantial rail infrastructure investment to cope with the growing population. The Regional Rail Link will create up to 50 kilometres of new track between West Werribee and Southern Cross Station, with work to start by the end of the year," Mr Willis said.

The Regional Rail Link is the biggest single investment in the metropolitan rail network since the City Loop was built. The Regional Rail link will free up capacity for more trains on the Werribee, Craigieburn and Sunbury (Sydenham) lines. The new rail link will serve the growth suburbs in Melbourne's west of Tarneit and Wyndham Vale and include the rebuilding of Sunshine station with new platforms and a new rail bridge over the Maribyrnong River.

In addition, the Rudd Government has pledged \$40 million to undertake the initial planning phase for the Melbourne Metro Tunnel. This allocation of funds is imperative if the right model for the Metro is to be developed.

LeadWest CEO, Anton Mayer said the huge injection of funds into Australian schools, recently committed by the Rudd Government, is not only an investment in our children's and grandchildren's futures, but the \$62 billion investment (from 2009 – 2012) will in turn stimulate the economy through subsequent job creation.

"The \$62 billion is almost double the \$33.5 billion invested in schools over the last four years on funding and infrastructure," Mr Mayer said.

The Rudd Government is to be congratulated for investing in our school system, to ensure that subsequent generations will be better prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

LeadWest is a peak advocacy body that was formed to provide leadership to the West in addressing its challenges and capitalising on its advantages, to be a representative voice for the West, especially to State and Federal Government. LeadWest's goal is to help the West realise its great potential as a dynamic and enjoyable place in which to live, work and visit.

#### **For further information please contact:**

Sarah Diamond  
Project Manager, LeadWest



0400 870 073



sarah.diamond@leadwest.com.au

[www.leadwest.com.au](http://www.leadwest.com.au)  
Suite 209, 1 Thomas Holmes Street  
Maribyrnong Victoria 3032  
ABN 81 125 171 459