



Media Release

Gillard Government Announcement Fantastic for Melbourne's West

The first substantive outcome from the new Gillard Government will be of tremendous benefit to Melbourne's West, the Chair of Leadwest, Ralph Willis, said today.

The announcement of its decision to contribute \$63 million from the Federal Government's Green Car Innovation Fund to enable Toyota Australia to manufacture its next -generation 4 cylinder Camry engines at its Altona Plant will retain and expand over 300 engine production jobs in Melbourne's West and secure some 3000 jobs directly and indirectly involved in the production of the Australian-built Camry.

The Government grant will fund part of a \$300 million upgrade of the Altona Toyota Plant to enable production of 100,000 new-generation green engines a year, many of which will be exported to South East Asia.

Without this government grant, Mr Willis said, it would have been the Altona jobs that were being exported, not the new-generation engines.

Mr Willis said Government decisions like this were crucial to improving the job intensity of the West. The West has the lowest ratio of jobs to population of any region in Melbourne, and as our population is growing faster than any other region it is imperative that Government at both State and Federal level give high priority to job generation initiatives in Melbourne's West.

This initial decision by the new Gillard Government, strongly supported by the Brumby State Government, represents a terrific first step in that direction.

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About LeadWest

LeadWest Ltd was formed by the metropolitan western region Councils. Its board members are representatives from the councils, businesses and educational institutions of Melbourne's West. LeadWest was formed to foster and undertake actions that support the sustainable growth and development of the region. It builds on the existing social, economic and environmental capacity of the region, to ensure a sustainable future for communities and businesses of the West.