



## **Media Release**

### **Decentralisation could save Taxpayers & the Environment**

Relocating government offices out of the city could substantially reduce government expenditure, have significant environmental benefits by decreasing carbon emissions and improve Melbourne's traffic gridlock.

The Victorian government could demonstrate real leadership by looking into the viability of decentralising Melbourne's CBD.

Over 10% of Melbourne's office space is taken up by the Victorian Government. A relocation of some of these departments to selected suburban locations such as Footscray, Sunshine, Moonee Ponds & Werribee are likely to have a direct impact on the number of private vehicles travelling into the city on any given day.

Approx 80% of travel undertaken in Melbourne on an average weekday is by private vehicle.

We in the west are acutely aware there is a significant issue with traffic congestion heading to Melbourne particularly over the WestGate Bridge, and travel times in peak hour have slowed to their lowest levels in over a decade which imposes huge economic and social costs onto the community.

I believe we have now reached the point in Melbourne's growth, in particular at the outer fringes, where serious consideration should be given by government in reviewing the location of its offices / employees. Such moves could also act as a catalyst to drive the State governments aim of developing key transit cities and underpin positive urban redevelopments particularly into Melbourne's west.

From an economic point of view, we could see the pressure on CBD rentals decrease as government frees up office space for other businesses and maintaining Melbourne's competitive position globally.

There could also be not insignificant taxpayer savings as arterial infrastructure may be more efficiently utilised and government employees could be located in less expensive office locations.



From an environmental perspective, less people stuck in traffic, and more people living closer to their relocated workplace would potentially save significant amounts of greenhouse gases.

Enquiries, Anton Mayer CEO LeadWest Ltd: 0400905455