



Media Release

State Budget Hits A Right Note

Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the budget from a LeadWest perspective.

I believe the **Lenders Budget hits the right note** from the west's perspective as it squarely acknowledges the complexity of issues associated with strong urban growth particularly in the outer suburbs such as Wyndham, Melton and Brimbank.

It hits the right balance between addressing pressing current problems such as housing affordability, pressures on young families and the provision health services etc and the need to lay the solid groundwork for the future by investing in improved infrastructure for the west.

The \$48.5 million to complete the last remaining section of duplication along Kororoit Creek Rd will improve access to the key industrial areas of Altona and Laverton North travelling from the growth area of Wyndham and support the creation of more local jobs

The West's deficiencies in its public transport services are also recognised with public transport improvements on offer with the \$92.6 million for third track works and extra platform at Laverton Railway Station to support three extra morning peak hour trains being well received.

The vital importance of investing in the education & skills agenda has also been put into focus with additional support to underpin raising the skill levels and better prepare the youth in the west to participate in the new economy.

The extra funding of new maternity beds in the outer suburbs including Wyndham & Melton and the \$74 million for a radiotherapy unit at Sunshine hospital is also a big win for residents of the west.

Tel: +61 3 9317 5794 Fax: +61 3 9317 0721 mob: 0400 905 455

Post: P O Box 2382 Footscray, Vic 3011 Email: anton.mayer@leadwest.com.au

Address: Suite 209. No.1 Thomas Holmes Street, Maribyrnong. Vic 3032

www.leadwest.com.au



From my perspective the fundamental reason for the forming of LeadWest is the array of pressing needs and deficiencies in the region, as exemplified by:

- Population growing faster than in any other region of Melbourne;
- Job growth in the region lagging well below population growth;
- The lowest rate of tertiary qualified graduates in metropolitan Melbourne;
- Low school retention rates and the highest rate of youth unemployment;
- Serious deficiencies in its rail transport system, including extremely crowded peak hour trains, sections of single track and no electrified line west of Sunshine (a major growth corridor);
- Major clogging of its arterial roads and freeways to the city at peak hours, especially the Westgate Bridge, Westgate Freeway and Western Ring Road;
- An area of lower socio-economic status than the rest of Melbourne with the highest level of cultural diversity; and
- Serious health issues in the region e.g. -
 - Health of the population of the West is poorer than in any other region of Melbourne;
 - The ratio of GP's per head of population is the lowest in Melbourne; and
 - A shortage of acute hospital beds and the lack of an A1 tertiary teaching hospital in the region

Whilst the issues facing the residents of Melbourne's west are still compelling and LeadWest along with other western region stakeholders will need to "fight the good fight", I believe the State government is heading in the right direction and a number of ticks in the right boxes are imbedded in this budget.

Enquiries, Anton Mayer CEO LeadWest Ltd: 0400905455