

Media Release

Barry Harvey AM now Chair of LeadWest's Board

Mr Barry Harvey AM has become the second Independent Chair of the Board of LeadWest, an advocacy organisation for Melbourne's west.

LeadWest's inaugural Independent Chair, the Hon Ralph Willis AO, retired from the role after guiding LeadWest over its first four years of operation. Under LeadWest's constitution the Chair may serve a maximum of four years.

At its Annual General Meeting in Caroline Springs, LeadWest's Board announced the appointment of Barry Harvey. He had been nominated after a comprehensive search and selection process.

Barry Harvey has been actively involved in identifying and implementing solutions for key issues relating to the sustainable development of Melbourne's west and is a current member of the Western Melbourne RDA Committee.

He has also been the chair of the Wyndham Industrial Liaison Development (WILD) committee since 1992.

Barry Harvey is a passionate advocate for opportunity through education and skills development, particularly the opportunities for young people in Melbourne's west and has been the Chair of the Committee of Management for the WynBay Local Learning and Employment Network since its inception.

A leading business identity in the region, having founded and grown the cold storage company AustCo Enterprises Pty Ltd into a thriving business, Barry Harvey was also national chairman of the Refrigerator Warehouse and Transport Association.

A key focus for Barry Harvey and the LeadWest Board in 2012, as was highlighted at LeadWest's Strategic Forum for Melbourne's west, is the broadening of economic opportunity in the region.

Enhancing economic opportunity in Melbourne's west will involve securing optimal benefit from 'hard' infrastructure investment in the region, such as the building of the Regional Rail Link and associated stations.

It will also involve attracting greater investment in 'soft' infrastructure, such as educational opportunities that close the skills gap and further enable creation of 'suburban jobs' within the region in advanced manufacturing and the faster growing service sectors.

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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.