

Funding LeadWest

Funding LeadWest was a key item of interest at the Board Meeting held on 11th July 2007 and chaired by Ralph Willis, the recently appointed independent chairperson.

The Board adopted a budget for 2007/08 that provides for a CEO, an admin officer and an independent office. The budget will also provide for the basic operational capacity of LeadWest – that is, Board administration, business planning and base level networking and advocacy. There is also an amount of \$70,000 which can be allocated to forward strategy planning or project development. An independent office will not be sought until the CEO has been appointed.

Membership Fees

LeadWest resolved to seek contributions from member councils of amounts similar to that provided to the previous regional organisations (WREDO and Western Regional Forum). This allocation is historical and is not based on an exact formula. It is proposed that a formula be developed by December 2007 and that any recommended changes to council fees be considered in time for their 2008/09 budget deliberations.

Other organisations who wish to join LeadWest will also be required to pay a fee. LeadWest has been established to undertake a high level policy and advocacy role on behalf of the region. It is therefore expected that mostly larger organisations and businesses in the region will be interested in participating and becoming members.

Some companies and organisations may be interested in participating in the advocacy activities of LeadWest while others may consider joining LeadWest as part of their corporate social responsibility activities.

The Interim Board has not finalised its organisational fee. The Board examined the fees set by the Committees for Geelong and Ballarat, who have both set fees at \$3,000 for basic membership and \$20,000 for leading members.

LeadWest Seeks a CEO

Advertisements for the position of CEO are likely to be placed in "The Age" and other newspapers in mid August 2007. Any interested persons should be referred to Bev Butler who is managing the recruitment process.

The Interim Board endorsed a position description at its July meeting, along with timelines for the recruitment process. There is a need for some flexibility in the timing of the final appointment, which will be made by the full Board of LeadWest when it is finalised.

Contact details

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Please feel free to contact them on any Leadwest matter.

Board Appointments

The Interim Board have established a Nominations Committee to source suitable candidates for four organisational positions on the Board. The selected candidates will then be put to a Special General Meeting of members for election to the positions. At this stage, the members are the councils of the region. Organisations providing directors to the Board will also be required to become LeadWest members.

In the future, the situation will be different. It is expected that most key organizations in the region will be members of LeadWest. The organisations will then be in a position to nominate persons for the Board. At each AGM, members will have the opportunity to put forward nominations.

Other Business from the Meeting

- Approved a framework for a regional strategic plan and an organisational business plan
- Requested the Project Consultant to provide a report to the Board on a "State of the Region" or similar type of event to commence the substantive work of LeadWest
- Invited the new Western Health Alliance and the people who worked on the WREID Study to make presentations to the August Board Meeting with a view to commencing dialogue and to establishing strong working relationships with other Western Regional Groups and projects

Future Meeting Details

Date	Location
Wednesday 8 August	Moonee Valley City Council
Wednesday 12 Sept	Maribyrnong City Council

