

Media Release



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Logistics City In West To Act as Catalyst for Jobs Growth

LeadWest directors have welcomed State government financial support to examine areas to further improve Victoria's strong export record and creating jobs for the freight and logistics industry.

Melbourne's position as Australia's premier freight and logistics hub will be further strengthened by moves to look at a new Logistics City in the economic heart of Victoria's western metropolitan region.

Already a strong generator of jobs and economic growth Melbourne's West offered significant strategic advantages to business being located at the centre of Victoria's air, sea, rail and road links.

With close access to Australia's largest port "Port of Melbourne" the west presents a very strong value proposition for a Logistics City which would incorporate a range of new high tech industries and high value employment opportunities" Mr Mayer the CEO of LeadWest said.

On making the announcement, Premier Brumby indicated that such a Logistics City would be attractive to hi-tech industries such as health, pharmaceuticals and aerospace alongside traditional goods such as produce and automotive components.

Wyndham Mayor, Cr Kim McAliney also welcomed the State Government announcement, given the potential for substantial economic benefit in the West. Wyndham City Council recently appointed CEO, Peter Marshall also said the plan to create a Logistics City in Melbourne's western metropolitan region is an exciting prospect for Wyndham

A plan for a future Logistics City is the basis of an innovative study to be led by the Institute of Logistics and Supply Chain Management at Victoria University and overseen by its director Professor Pieter Nagel. Victoria University also felt that the investment in a Logistics City would also generate jobs in education and training, financial and information technology services and logistics roles in packing, handling, delivery and customs.

LeadWest appreciates the ongoing commitment by the State government to grow the economy in Melbourne's west and create jobs. The funding to upgrade the West Gate/CityLink/Monash corridor and improvements in the Melbourne to Sydney rail line, Australia's busiest rail freight corridor will be of lasting significance.

Mr Mayer indicated that the Brumby Government's recent budget announcement which provided \$92 million in funding to upgrade the Werribee line which will add an extra track at Laverton to improve train reliability and freight services was a real boost. However, he stressed that "there is a real imperative that the government continues to invest in the transport network and that by delivering on the key recommendations imbedded in the Eddington report Melbourne's west can embark upon a second phase of strong economic growth".

Enquiries: Leadwest Chief Executive Anton Mayer 0400905455