



Leadership for the West

20 November 2008

Securing a Future for Manufacturing in the West

The Brumby Government's Manufacturing Statement, released yesterday, is a win for the West's manufacturing and industry sector, offering a \$254 million boost to help stimulate jobs and secure the State's competitive edge in the national and global market.

Anton Mayer, CEO of LeadWest, said that the Government's Manufacturing Statement was crucial in supporting the West's Manufacturing-based industry, particularly with the heightened stress brought about by the global financial crisis.

"The economy in Melbourne's West has traditionally been centred on the manufacturing industry. With the rapid transformation of Australia's economy, away from this base, our Region's manufacturing industry has slowly been eroded. The Government's announcement of the \$254 million injection into the industry, will allow our community to continue to benefit from emerging manufacturing opportunities and heighten the ability of our local businesses to expand into export markets.


"At the end of the day I'm concerned about securing the West's place in manufacturing and growing job opportunities in our manufacturing and industry sectors. I support the funding injection as it will assist in elevating some of the pressures and challenges being faced by our local manufacturers," Mr Mayer said.

The aim of the funding is to help Victorian industry to compete, foster new technologies and to modernise the way these sectors do business. A key point of the strategy surrounding the funding is the Government's commitment to favour local bidders for State contracts over offshore tenders.

LeadWest is a peak advocacy body that was formed to provide leadership to the West in addressing its challenges and capitalising on its advantages, to be a representative voice for the West, especially to State and Federal Government. LeadWest's goal is to help the West realise its great potential as a dynamic and enjoyable place in which to live, work and visit.

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