

Media Release

Support for high-skill, high-wage jobs in Melbourne's West



LeadWest welcomes the announcement today that the Gillard Government will invest \$63 million to bring production of Toyota's next-generation, four-cylinder engine for the Camry and Hybrid Camry to Melbourne's West.

The grant, from the Green Car Innovation Fund, will be used to install cutting-edge plant and equipment and lead to a dramatic expansion and renewal of capacity at Toyota's engine plant in Altona.

LeadWest's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Anton Mayer has labelled the decision a "triple treat" for Melbourne's West as it will benefit economically, socially and environmentally.

"This is great news for Melbourne's West," Mr Mayer said, "Producing green, fuel-efficient cars is crucial for the environment and the future. Producing the engines for them in Melbourne's West is a great outcome for local employment. It secures high-skill, high-wage jobs here."

Crucial to Toyota's decision has been support from the Gillard and Brumby Governments, which enabled both Toyota Australia and its parent in Japan to make a timely investment decision and base the project in Victoria.

The decision shows tremendous confidence in the Australian and Victorian automotive sector and the capabilities of our suppliers and workers – including the 320 employees at Toyota's Altona engine plant.

Work at the Toyota plant starts immediately and is scheduled for completion by late 2012.

The locally produced hybrid engine – an Australian first – will consume just 6 litres of petrol per 100 kilometres and emit 142 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre. The new line will start turning out over 100,000 engines a year.

The new petrol engines built on the line will consume 4.5 per cent less fuel and produce 5 per cent fewer greenhouse emissions than today's equivalent engine. This will cut carbon pollution by up to 20,000 tonnes a year.

This substantial investment in Australian manufacturing will help anchor Toyota's operations in Melbourne's West for years to come.

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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.