



## Western Region Stakeholders Strategy Forum – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009

### **WORKSHOP 1**

Workshop groups were asked to discuss what they thought were the major changes that affected the west of Melbourne over the past 5 years; key issues facing the west of Melbourne in the next 5 years and to report back on what they thought were the top three issues for our region. The following are a summary of those top three issues –

- Integrated vision/plan looking forward;
- Public investment in infrastructure and education required;
- Cultural integration;
- Transport strategy;
- Image of the west;
- Broadband access;
- Employment investment – to get more jobs in the region with a diverse base and to create local jobs for local people;
- Infrastructure and social investment required to meet the requirements of the growing population;
- Skills shifts;
- Polycentric cities for the west, one or two more required (a Central Activity Centre as outlined in Melbourne at 5 Million).

## **WORKSHOP 2**

Attendees were then asked to join one of the designated interest group to further discuss the following –

1. What needs to happen to be able to respond to these challenges?
2. Who should undertake this?
3. What is the role of LeadWest in this context?

The outcomes from these groups are as follows.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Regional resource to attract economic development in the west  
\*LeadWest to coordinate vision and from this define who carries out the necessary planning/implementation.
- Set up a regional ambassador group for the west to promote development in the region  
\*LeadWest should investigate/promote.
- Local infrastructure development should have a local labour requirement.  
\*Local/State Government to do, but LeadWest to lobby for this.
- Need to have a defined strategy for development – WREIDS, may need to be updated or some other body of research undertaken.  
\*State Government – LeadWest advocacy role
- Push extension of polycentric city model in the west.  
\*LeadWest to lead a coalition to progress this.
- Lobby for the relocation of State/Federal Government agencies into the west.  
\*LeadWest to undertake this.

### **TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Vision and leadership (getting ahead of the game)  
\*LeadWest to provide
- Integrated infrastructure plan for the west (present – 2030) examining local transport, social, education, medical, telecoms etc)  
\*LeadWest has a role in lobbying government to part fund a major study that ties in all stakeholders (LeadWest to put up funding also).
- Improving the image of the west – a couple of ‘wins’ in key strategy areas

### **TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION**

- Western Melbourne Tourism will continue to take the lead in respect to tourism in the region.  
\*LeadWest to continue to support Western Melbourne Tourism as required.
- The Local Councils within the region to develop an Arts/Culture/Recreation strategy.  
\*LeadWest to assist where required.

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS

- Need to have the trained people in the region, if not, how will the region attract business development?
  - Need tertiary institutions to change and grow what courses they offer. We must identify (in the aforementioned proposed regional study) what shortages exist, so that the TAFEs, universities and other training institutions are targeted to meet these needs.
  - Need a region wide view to develop a broader best practice model.  
\*LeadWest to do
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