

# LeadWest News

FROM THE CHAIR  
CR DR PHILLIP ZADA



## WEST LINK STAGE 2 WIN

West Link Stage 2 is a critical road link that will connect two fast growing suburbs in Wyndham.

As part of its 2025 Federal Election Advocacy, LeadWest sought \$87 million from the Federal Government to construct West Link Stage 2 to connect Ballan Road in Wyndham Vale to Sayers Road in Tarneit. This was in addition to a previous commitment of \$57 million towards the first stage of the Wyndham West Link.

In March the Albanese Government committed \$85 million towards West Link Stage 2. The project promises to reduce travel times and improve safety for residents in Werribee, Manor Lakes, Wyndham Vale and Tarneit.

"This is a game changer for our area," said Member for Tarneit, Dylan Wight

## DR DANIEL MULINO AND SAM RAE WIN MINISTERIAL POSITIONS

### LEADWEST REGION MPs NEW IN CABINET

LeadWest congratulates our local federal members of parliament:

- **Dr Daniel Mulino**, Member for Fraser, appointed as Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services
- **Sam Rae**, Member for Hawke, appointed as Minister for Aged Care and Seniors
- Gellibrand's **Tim Watts** was appointed Special Envoy for Indian Ocean Affairs
- **Joanne Ryan**, Member for Lalor was re-elected and is Chief Government Whip in the Albanese Labor Government
- **Alice Jordan-Baird** is the newly elected Member for Gorton
- **Jo Briskey** is the newly elected Labor MP for Maribyrnong

## FIX THE CALDER! – ITS HAPPENING

Ahead of the 2025 Federal Election, LeadWest advocated for government funding for the construction of a full diamond interchange at Calder Park Drive. It's urgently required to improve safety, reduce congestion and provide better access to the Calder Freeway.

In February the LeadWest delegation to Parliament House Canberra raised the need for the interchange directly with the Hon Catherine King MP, Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. On 31 March Minister King announced a \$300m government investment to build the Calder Park Drive interchange. This investment consists of \$250m from the Federal Government as part of the budgeted 'Road Blitz' package and a further \$50m from the State Government.

The commitment was also supported by the Liberal Party ahead of the Federal Election.

We look forward to the commencement of works and the project delivery.

## 2025-2026 STATE BUDGET

### CHAIR IN LOCK-UP

For the first time, a LeadWest Chair was invited to the State Budget lock-up at Parliament House. This is a pre-budget briefing only afforded to stakeholders that the Victorian Government deems to be VIPs.

The Chair, Cr Dr Philip Zada reported that at the lock-up, several Ministerial staffers had commented on LeadWest's recent achievements and congratulated LeadWest on boosting our profile.

Cr Dr Zada also attended the State Budget Lunch with the Treasurer the following day.

### STATE BUDGET WINS ACROSS THE REGION

According to an ABC news online report with a focus on the cost of living, families are among the biggest winners in this year's Victorian budget. They say while the list of winners looks long, with the exception of health, many of the investments are expanding on existing programs or are relatively small initiatives including:

- Victorian children under the age of 18 will be offered free public transport, saving families upwards of \$700 per child each year. The government is also expanding its free public transport program for seniors on weekends
- \$10m allocated for future school upgrades across the region
- \$4.14b in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, to deliver the new Sunshine Station Superhub. This investment will improve V/Line services and allow for more metropolitan trains at this busy network interchange. This is a crucial first step towards a rail line to Melbourne Airport and a future electrified Melton Line
- Continued commitment to upgrades on the Melton rail line with overall investment expected to be \$650 million. This will include \$325 million of Australian Government funding.
- \$50m for the Calder Park Drive interchange, in addition to the \$250m committed by the Federal Government
- \$162 million for new and improved bus services in Melbourne's growing suburbs
- \$8.9m to help locals walk and ride by upgrading shared user paths in Taylors Lakes, Sydenham and Hillside
- Cycling infrastructure between Melton Town Centre, Melton train station and Weir Views, and shared use paths to Watergardens Station and activity centres on the Melton Highway and Sunbury Line Strategic Cycling Corridor
- \$140 million to progress construction on the Melton Hospital, which is due for completion in 2029/30
- \$28 million towards the delivery of Kangan Institute TAFE in Cobblebank due to open in 2028
- \$140 million to operationalise the new Werribee Law Courts
- Werribee Main Road: A \$250 million upgrade to improve four intersections and the Princes Freeway on-off ramps and add an additional lane to the bridge
- A \$45 million investment for the East Werribee Employment Precinct
- \$21.6 million for major projects like the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre gas-off and Splash Park, RecWest demolition and Shorten Reserve upgrade, a new pavilion at Hansen Reserve and the Creative West project
- More than \$2.5 billion was allocated towards tackling the problem of youth crime, including funding for prevention and early intervention initiatives such as the *School Lawyer* program operated by western suburbs community legal service Westjustice



## STILL PUSHING FOR A BETTER BUS NETWORK

Over the last 12 months LeadWest has met with many MPs and State Government Ministers to share concerns about the need for improved transport services as a high priority for people living in the west.

LeadWest welcomed the Allan Government's announcement of an additional 15 new school bus specials in our growth areas and was pleased that the Victorian state budget allocated \$12.1 million for a new bus route connecting Cairnlea and Deer Park.

The state budget also included \$162 million for new and improved bus services in Melbourne's growing suburbs, including:

- new and extended bus routes connecting passengers in growth areas to train stations including Riverwalk, King's Leigh, Mt Atkinson, Thornhill Park and Mystique estates
- new and Upgraded bus services for the new west Tarneit Station
- more bus services to improve access to the Wyndham Law Courts precinct
- New bus route between Cairnlea and Deer Park
- upgraded services to improve access to Caroline Springs Town Centre and Watergardens Station the fast-growing growth areas in Melbourne's west.

will be inviting the Premier and the Prime Minister to speak at the Summit about their visions for the future of the West of Melbourne.

Additionally, leading experts and stakeholders will talk on key subjects including:

- population and employment dynamics of the region
- the importance of employment precincts to create local jobs for a rapidly growing population
- priorities for transport
- infrastructure in the region
- attracting private investment in the region
- health and education
- culture, events, and tourism



## PREPARING ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR 2026 STATE ELECTION

LeadWest is currently preparing its advocacy strategy for the 2026 State election. CEOs and Advocacy Advisors from each of the member councils are working together to identify priority advocacy asks for the LeadWest region.

## WORKING TOGETHER

### WOMEDA

West of Melbourne Economic Development Alliance (WoMEDA) is an alliance of significant public and private institutions across the West of Melbourne, working in tandem with local government and engaging with industry.

The LeadWest Chair has been invited to be a panel member of the closing session at the WoMEDA West of Melbourne Summit (presented by WoMEDA in partnership with The Age) on Thursday 23 October.

At the conference WoMEDA will be launching its refreshed West of Melbourne Economic Development Strategy. They

## OUR PEOPLE



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LeadWest respectfully  
acknowledges and recognises  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
people as the first peoples and  
Traditional Custodians of the land  
and waterways on which we live. We  
honour and pay our respects to  
Elders past, present and emerging.

## LEADWEST JOINT DELEGATED COMMITTEE

### Brimbank

Cr Katharine Nikolic (Deputy Chair)

CEO Fiona Blair

### Hobsons Bay

Cr Diana Grima

Interim CEO Kerry Thompson

### Maribyrnong

Cr Susan Yengi

CEO Celia Haddock

### Melton

Cr Dr Phillip Zada (Chair)

CEO Roslyn Wai

### Wyndham

Cr Peter Maynard

CEO Stephen Wall

**LeadWest Executive Officer**

Hillary Hastings

## ADVOCACY OFFICERS ADVISORY GROUP

### Brimbank

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Freya Toloa

### Hobsons Bay

Caroline James

### Maribyrnong

David Bonnici

### Melton

Pauline Hobbs

Gillian Cooper

### Wyndham

Chris Brayne

Jonathon Elias