



Leadership for the West

7 April 2009

BIGGEST INFRASTRUCTURE DECISION IN AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY

LeadWest CEO, Anton Mayer, welcomed the Rudd Government's announcement to lead the development of a fibre-to-the-home broadband network, by creating its own company to build the network, with work beginning around June this year.

"The Government's broadband investment will see businesses and householders operating with some of the fastest broadband speeds in the world," Mr Mayer said.

The new company, as proposed by the Rudd Government, will be part-owned by the private sector, with the Government retaining a majority share until the network was completed in around seven to eight years time.

"The Government has taken the lead with choosing this particular broadband investment model, that removes telcos from determining the development and planning of the network, ensuring the best interests of the Australian public is maintained.

"Last year, LeadWest held a telecommunications forum to highlight the issue of broadband access in Melbourne's West to Federal Government as well as broadband providers. I am thrilled that this announcement by the Government means that the community living in the West will be on equal footing to other global cities in the world," Mr Mayer said.

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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