

Chronicle of Events 2007 - 2008

Interim Board First Formal Meeting – 9 May 2007

Special General Meeting – 14 November 2007

The full Board was established including appointment of the Initial Independent Chair, five Council Directors and four corporate Directors.

Chief Executive Officer Recruited – January 2008

Anton Mayer was appointed Chief Executive Officer of LeadWest at the December 2007 Board meeting. Anton began on 14 January 2008.

Recruitment of Office Manager – March 2008

Elizabeth Pyke recruited as LeadWest' Office Manager on 17 March 2008. One of Elizabeth's first tasks was to establish the office and get the IT systems up and running.

LeadWest's Office Established – March 2008

The LeadWest office was established on 19 March 2008 at Suite 209, 1 Thomas Holmes Street Maribyrnong with refurbishment completed in May 2008.

LeadWest Participated in Western Region Economic Strategy Development Forums

LeadWest participated in a number of Stakeholder workshops/forums across the west addressing key economic development issues facing local communities. Both Melton Shire and Moonee Valley Councils actively developed response strategies to create local economic opportunities for their residents in the face of a rapidly changing business landscape and the impacts of "globalisation".

The overwhelming imperative in both forums was the commitment to sustainability issues and the need to create local jobs that build skills and offer local employment multipliers.

Participation in the Federal Government's 2020 Forum – April 2008

At the bequest of the Federal Minister for Health, Hon. Nicola Roxon, LeadWest CEO Anton Mayer participated in the 2020 Forum held in April 2008. Topics covered included issues such as transport, health, infrastructure, jobs, housing and the environment with the aim to help Federal policy makers identify priority issues within the community.

Launch of LeadWest & the Western Agenda – May 2008

LeadWest was officially launched by Hon. Justin Madden MLC, Minister for Planning on 21 May 2008 at the Sunshine Convention Centre, Victoria University campus. The Hon Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disability and Children's Services and Member for Maribyrnong, introduced LeadWest's strategic action plan The Western Agenda. This function attracted over 100 attendees including Mayors, Executives and other key stakeholders from across the Region.

LeadWest adopts 2008/09 LeadWest Business Plan

Directors endorsed the 2008/09 LeadWest Business plan. Key elements and activities focus on the strategies and priorities imbedded in the LeadWest "Western Agenda".

LeadWest Briefed Western Region MP's

LeadWest briefed Western Region MP's on the key development priorities of the western suburbs and outlined its policy roadmap to address these issues, which was contained in its "Western Agenda".

MOU with Western Melbourne Tourism – June 2008

LeadWest and Western Melbourne Tourism conducted an official signing of the MOU on the 20th June 2008 at Victoria's iconic tourism asset, the Open Range Zoo at Werribee.

The MOU was developed to formally consolidate the partnership between the two bodies in a bid to better promote the western region as a tourist destination. The key aim is to create more jobs, lure more investment and ensure proper infrastructure is delivered to the western suburbs.

LeadWest supports Brimbank and Melton Councils Rail Improvement Imperatives

LeadWest participated in a stakeholder Forum in Deer Park, organised by Brimbank Council, to support the quest to secure, as a matter of priority, the electrification and duplication of the Deer Park to Melton Rail Line.

Seen as a major shortcoming of the EWLNA, the need to complete this piece of public transport infrastructure is seen as vital in addressing the transport pressure being experienced by residents in this rapidly growing development corridor.

City West Water Briefs LeadWest Directors on Water Recycling Initiatives in the West – July 2008

LeadWest Directors were given a briefing on the key recycled water projects being undertaken by City West Water. Details were provided on a number of major projects being rolled out in the west, in partnership with Councils and project developers, which will achieve a more sustainable future as the west's population grows and economic development and jobs growth continues.

Submission to the East West Link Needs Assessment (Eddington Report) – July 2008

LeadWest submitted a detailed response to Sir Rod Eddington's East West Link Needs Assessment, to highlight the transport challenges facing the West.

LeadWest Website Re-Developed – August 2008

The new and improved LeadWest website went live on 14 August 2008. The site gives users access to media releases, reports and membership information about LeadWest.

Climate Change Forum – August 2008

LeadWest, in collaboration with Maribyrnong City Council and the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA), held a Climate Change Forum on 13 August 2008 at the Moonee Valley Racing Club. Around 140 people attended the event. The forum addressed international best practice in responding to climate change.

LeadWest Briefs Min Pallas on Strategic Transport Issues for the West – August 2008

LeadWest's CEO joined Mayors and CEOs from Melton, Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Moorabool and Hobsons Bay in providing the Hon Tim Pallas, Minister for Roads and Ports, with a comprehensive briefing on the transport imperatives in Melbourne's western suburbs which included a thorough review of the EWLNA. The State

Government welcomed the important input into this debate by key western region stakeholders.

Transport Forums – August 2008

LeadWest's CEO attended several Transport forums, including the MAV and Western Alliance Transport Forums in August 2008. These Forums focused on the challenges surrounding road and rail transport in Melbourne's West.

In addition, LeadWest met with Jonathan Metcalfe, Chairman of Connex, who along with other interested parties will be tendering for the rail service contract with the State Government. Mr. Metcalf briefed key western region stakeholders on the current challenges facing Melbourne's rail network as well as his Company's plans to address them. He provided insight into the value of having a private operator running a public transport system and also addressed issues including the removal of the Werribee services from the city loop in November 2008 and the electrification of the Sunbury corridor.

This meeting was held at Wyndham's new Civic Centre on the 23rd September 2008 and had over 50 attendees.

Cedar Woods Briefed LeadWest Directors on Major Projects – August 2008

Executives from Cedar Woods gave LeadWest Directors a briefing on the key recycled water projects being undertaken at the Cedar Woods development.

LeadWest Participated in HealthWest Summit 2008

The CEO and Chair of LeadWest participated in the HealthWest Summit 2008. LeadWest and HealthWest both share a common vision to improve the health and wellbeing of the communities on Melbourne's west. The west has an acute incidence of chronic disease and has a need to attract additional funding support to address

this health inequality and achieve greater social inclusion.

Re-establishment of the WREIDS Working Group – September 2008

WREIDS identified the development of regional 'Key Project Investment Prospectus' as being a key body of work that needed to be completed. LeadWest saw the importance of the WREIDS report and that projects needed to be identified and driven by each participating Council.

LeadWest to Join Grants Selection Panel on – "Vision for Werribee Plains"- Stage 2

LeadWest was invited to join the Grants Selection Panel to oversee the dispersal of \$10 million over 3 years to promote sustainable development in Melbourne's west. Funded by the State Government Department of Sustainability & Environment the Fund will act as a catalyst to underpin the setting up of projects that will deliver sustainable development outcomes for communities in the western region.

The scheme is split into 3 tiers of funding – small (\$5K -to \$50K), medium (\$50K - \$250K) and large grants (over \$250K). The Grants Selection Panel will meet 4 times per year.

Recruitment of Project Manager – September 2008

Sarah Diamond began as LeadWest Project Manager on 22 September 2008 to assist with driving key 2008/ 2009 business plan imperatives.

Submission to Infrastructure Australia – October 2008

LeadWest lodged their submission to Infrastructure Australia in response to a call for submissions from the public and community for infrastructure projects that are of national significance. Federal Infrastructure and

Transport Minister, Anthony Albanese and Infrastructure Australia Chair, Sir Rod Eddington requested all Australians to be part of the Rudd Labour Government's nation-building agenda. Submissions were required by 15 October and open to any member of the public and business community.

LeadWest Attended Moonee Valley City Council Business Briefing & Celebration

LeadWest attended the Gala Celebration of Business Achievement and Growth hosted by Moonee Valley City Council. The prestigious event was attended by over 150 key regional business leaders and was officially opened by Martin Pakula MP. The keynote speaker for the evening was the chief economist from the ANZ, Mr. Saul Eastlake who spoke about the present credit crisis impacting upon world markets.

LeadWest Telecommunications Forum – October 2008

Over a hundred key stakeholders within Melbourne's Western Region attended LeadWest's Telecommunications Forum on Thursday 30 October. Key speakers included the Federal Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, Mr David Quilty, Telstra's Group Managing Director for Public Policy and Communications and Ms Judy Anderson from IBM Australia & New Zealand. The Forum was chaired by Ms Rosemary Sinclair from the Australian Telecommunications Users Group (ATUG) and included a panel from major developers in the west.

LeadWest Met with Melbourne Water @ Western Treatment Plant – November 2008

LeadWest CEO met with officials of Melbourne Water at their Werribee Treatment facility to look at latest technological developments for water treatment and explore options for the greater use of treated water for local application.

LeadWest Tour Eynesbury Development – November 2009

The Chairman and CEO of LeadWest visited the GEO Properties "Eynesbury Residential / Lifestyle Development" located in the Shire of Melton. The state of the art development encompasses extensive adoption of sustainable technologies including extensive use of treated water for widespread use within the development.

LeadWest Met with Senator Kim Carr's Senior Advisers – November 2008

LeadWest's CEO and the Executive Officer of the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) met with key senior advisors of the Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr. The meeting, arranged by LeadWest, provided the opportunity for LeadWest and WAGA to brief Senator Carr's senior advisors on industry developments in Melbourne's west focusing on sustainability.

The advisors were extremely supportive of the work WAGA had undertaken in mapping the roofs (specifically industry and business) for use in collecting solar energy, feeding back into the grid, as well as utilising large warehouse roofs for water catchment. The meeting also gave LeadWest the chance to explore areas of support and funding to underpin a climate change forum.

Western Bulldogs Joined LeadWest – December 2008

LeadWest welcomed the Western Bulldogs as members in December 2008. The Western Bulldogs are major players in supporting a range of community development initiatives in the west.

This new alliance shares many common aspirations in securing a better future for Melbourne's west.

LeadWest Attends Peak oil briefing hosted by MAV

Leadwest participated in a MAV convened discussion on Peak Oil. Given growing world energy demand and limited potential for further production gains, energy prices will continue to place severe pressures on citizens, corporations, cities and states. The briefing addressed issues such as how to prepare for more expensive energy and to mitigate the negative impacts of peak oil.

LeadWest Invited to Participate in Forum for Victorian Tourism Investment Guidelines

LeadWest and other key tourism stakeholders attended the launch of the Victorian Tourism Investment Guidelines. The Minister for Tourism & Major Events, the Hon Tim Holding MP presented the keynote address to key stakeholders outlining the importance of the sector to Victoria from an employment perspective and Government measures to try and secure more investment into this vital sector of the economy.

LeadWest Supports Western Region Bid for an Intermodal Logistics Park

Leadwest continued to advocate to both the State and Federal Governments on securing a major Logistics / Intermodal Freight facility in Melbourne's west. Such a project had the potential to improve freight efficiencies and generate much needed local employment.

LeadWest CEO Met with Minister for Industry and Trade and Industrial Relations

LeadWest's CEO briefed Member for Western Metropolitan, MLC Martin Pakula on the outcomes achieved by LeadWest during 2008 and the future strategic priorities and business plan goals for 2009. Supporting jobs growth and stimulating economic development are seen as key imperatives as are addressing the western suburbs education, skills and training deficiencies.

Leadwest CEO Briefed on Linfox Development Plans at Avalon Airport

LeadWest's CEO met with head of Linfox Airports regarding their expansion plans for Avalon airport. Avalon, already supporting domestic budget airline, Jetstar, is looking at upgrading facilities and related infrastructure in order to support their quest to attract International services. Linfox will seek the support of both Leadwest and the Geelong Region Alliance – G21 to help capture both State and Federal Government support in the provision of enabling infrastructure.

In addition to expanding its air operations at Avalon, Linfox is also interested in expanding into retail services and commercial offices to capture further opportunities. Already employing approx 1300 people, Linfox at Avalon is a significant western region employer and engine of economic growth.

LeadWest Contributed to Development of Brimbank Community Plan – December 2008

LeadWest participated in key stakeholder consultations in the development of the Brimbank City Councils Community Plan. The Community Plan provides the road map to guide resource prioritisation in the delivery of key infrastructure and general services for Brimbank's rapidly growing and ethnically diverse community

LeadWest Joined Greater Western Chamber Of Commerce & Industry (GWCCI)

LeadWest joined one of the western suburbs key business support groups. GWCCI has a broad membership base spanning many of the key employment sectors in the west and host a regular series of business improvement briefings and workshops.

With an aim of assisting local enterprises grow their businesses and create more jobs, LeadWest was eager to lend its support to this body's mission on behalf of businesses located in the western suburbs.

Leadwest Supported Export Push for Western Businesses

LeadWest CEO participated in an Export Forum breakfast briefing directed at raising the level of export engagement of Western Melbourne businesses. Hosted by the Western Export Network in partnership with Austrade, over 100 businesses drawn from across the west were able to listen to case studies from successful local exporters and network with key local providers of export related services.

