

LeadWest is moving into a new phase of operation with the appointment of its full Board and shortly to be announced, a CEO. 2008 will see LeadWest commencing its substantive work program.



New Directors

LeadWest has been operating in 2007 with an Interim Board made up of council nominated directors that had the job of appointing an Independent Chairman and four directors from other organisations in the region. The Hon Ralph Willis was appointed Chairman at the June 2007 meeting. At a Special General Meeting held in November, 2007 the members elected the following four directors:

Anne Barker	Managing Director, City West Water Ltd
John Cameron	CEO, Moonee Valley Racing Club
Prof Peter Creamer	Pro Vice Chancellor (Industry and Community), Victoria University
Mick O'Donnell	Australian Operations Manager, Nufarm Australia Limited

These people join the following council nominated directors to make up the full board of Lead West, together with the independent chair **Ralph Willis**, in total 10 appointments:

Cr Margaret Giudice	Brimbank City Council	Cr Chris Papas	Melton Shire Council
Cr Kim McAliney	Wyndham City Council	Ms Kerry Thompson	Maribyrnong City Council
Cr Ben Opie	Moonee Valley City Council		

Election Commitments to the West

The new Labour Government committed \$1.03B in funding to the Western Ring Road and the West Gate Bridge in the recent Federal election. These two projects are to be delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government as part of the Major Cities Infrastructure Program. \$900M is being allocated to start the \$2.25B widening and intelligent transport upgrade of the Western Ring Road. The works will include extra lanes to increase capacity and new traffic management systems.

The West Gate Bridge is to receive \$120M towards the \$240M project to strengthen the bridge and improve its carrying capacity. The works include upgrading bridge barriers and reinforcing the bridge structure.

The Federal Government has also committed to a national freight and logistics strategy. As part of this initiative, commitments have been given to several projects across Victoria including \$50 million for the Altona/Laverton Precinct and the Dandenong Inter-modal Terminal.

Transport in the West

Mr Ian Robins, CEO, City of Wyndham and Chairman of the Western Transport Alliance provided a briefing to LeadWest at its October meeting on the transport challenges of the region. The region has seen enormous population growth in recent years that has not been

matched by jobs and much of the region's workforce is travelling daily to inner and central Melbourne, making transport a critical issue for the region.

The west has grown much faster than state government population projections. Over the 5 years [2001-2006] there has been an increase of 70,884 people in the West with the population increasing from 563,322 to 634,166 in the Region. This is 45,476 more than was predicted in Victoria Future 2000.

Transport challenges exist in all parts of the networks:

- Major roads are at capacity at peak periods,
- Standard loads on morning peak hour trains are being exceeded on the Werribee, Sydenham and Broadmeadows lines and rail passenger numbers have increased by 10% in each of the last two years.
- Freight activity in Melbourne is growing by 3% per annum, (up to 4-5% in the West). This equates to the freight task doubling in 14 to 17 years.

The Western Transport Alliance suggests that the way forward includes the development of a Freight Strategy for the West, a comprehensive Rail Network Strategy, planning for inter-modal freight hubs, provision of car parking in association with rail stations (on site or at locations linked by express buses) and establishment of new reservations for rail links and arterial roads. LeadWest is expected to take up transport issues as one of its key strategic directions in 2008.



Partnerships

Learning and Innovation West (L&IW)

Cr Gary Stock (Chairman) and Dr Shanti Wong gave a presentation to the September meeting of LeadWest. The Learning and Innovation West initiative is auspiced by Victoria University and Dr Wong provides executive support to the project. L&IW is a broad coalition of learning providers and community networks which links formal and informal learning across the region. Its aim is to transform learning and innovation outcomes in the region. Of particular concern to L&IW is that the region's children are already disadvantaged when they commence school. In terms of reading levels: 8% of children are below the indicative reading level in prep, 12% in year 8 and 16% in year 10. VCE outcomes for the region are below other regions, as is internet access and broad band access. L&IW have a program of advocacy and facilitation and is seeking to develop cross regional conversations about learning with LeadWest and other like minded organisations.

Profiles Of The New Directors



Mick O'Donnell
Australian Operations Manager,
Nufarm Australia Limited

A Senior Manager with Nufarm Australia Limited, Mick O'Donnell currently holds the positions of Australian Operations Manager and Global Information Systems Manager for Nufarm Limited

based at the company's global headquarters in North Laverton. Mick has held many positions during his 28 years with Nufarm in areas of Operations and Information Systems. Mick holds a Bachelor of Science and Graduate Diploma in Chemical Engineering.

His previous involvement in industry and community groups includes Kwinana Industries Council, CCIWA Manufacturing Council & Environment Committee, Chemical Industries Association (UK), and a governor of a UK primary school. Mick currently resides in Essendon and is enthusiastic about this opportunity to positively contribute to the future of the west.

John Cameron CEO, Moonee Valley Racing Club

Mr John Cameron was appointed as Moonee Valley Racing Club's Chief Executive in 2004. John is a resident of Moonee Ponds with a specific interest in community and strategic planning.

He has had past involvement in council as a former Chairman of an Economic Development Board and former Chairman of a Promotion and Development Board in New Zealand. John is a Director of Vic Racing Pty Ltd, and has completed an MBA and the Australian Institute of Company Directors diploma course.



Anne Barker
Managing Director,
City West Water Ltd

Ms Anne Barker was appointed Managing Director of City West Water Ltd on 6 November 2002. Her earlier career spanned diverse areas including law, retail, banking and energy industries. City West Water supplies water, trade waste and sewerage services to Melbourne's West. The company is also working hard to develop recycled water as a major component of the water supply to the West. Ms Barker currently is a member of Victoria's Plumbing Industry Advisory Council.



Professor Peter Creamer
Pro Vice Chancellor
(Industry and Community)
Victoria University.

Prof Peter Creamer is the Pro Vice Chancellor for Industry and Community at Victoria University. He is an engineer with strong industry and university

experience in areas of regional engagement, commercial development and fundraising.

At Victoria University he is responsible for the Office for Industry and Community Engagement and for establishing the new VU commercial office. His goal is to develop external engagement so that it becomes part of the daily life of the university and delivers mutual benefits for the students and the partners.

Prior to taking up the position at VU in mid 2007, Prof Creamer held positions at Anglia Ruskin University (PVC Corporate Development) and the University of Portsmouth (Director of Research & Development) in the UK.

Meeting Schedule 2007-2008

Date	Location
2007	
Wed 12 Dec	Moonee Valley Racing Club
2008	
Wed 13 February	Melton Shire Council
Wed 12 March	Victoria University
Wed 9 April	Moonee Valley City Council
Wed 14 May	NuFarm
Wed 11 June	Maribyrnong City Council

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Please feel free to contact them on any LeadWest matter.

