



Leadership for the West

4 February 2009

### **LeadWest Welcomes Rudd Government Stimulus Package**

Anton Mayer, CEO of LeadWest, today welcomed the Rudd Government's \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan designed to reduce the negative impact of the global economic crisis on working families by delivering a boost to the economy through one-off payments to workers and families and investing in roads, transport, public housing, schools and education infrastructure projects.

"This announcement illustrates that the Government recognises that to secure the nation's future prosperity, significant investment needs to be channelled into construction projects, such as the School Renewal Program outlined in the \$42 billion package. This program will invest \$14.7 billion to construct new buildings at schools and allocate \$200,000 to every Australian school for maintenance and building works. The Government's package will enable construction projects be brought forward, which will restore confidence in the community while ensuring jobs involved with construction continue to grow," Mr Mayer said.

Anton Mayer said the package is estimated to support 90,000 jobs in 2008-09 and 2009-2010, striking a balance by providing immediate support for local jobs and delivering long term investments such as \$3.9 billion for free ceiling insulation to 2.7 million homes. This project alone will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 49.4 million tonnes by 2020, the equivalent of taking more than 1 million cars off the road.

"The Government has hit the mark with this stimulus package, providing a boost for community infrastructure. The package also gives workers and families one-off payments to help with the financial hardship associated with the global financial crisis.

"This package will ensure that the community living in Melbourne's West will be supported by the stimulus measures put in place with the Rudd Government's Nation Building and Jobs Plan, and these measures will support economic activity and jobs growth within the Region," 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.

#### **For further information please contact:**

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