



LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee Meeting
MINUTES 19 June 2024

Date	Wednesday 19 June 2024	
Time	3:00pm – 5:00pm	
Location	Virtual via ZOOM	
Chair	Cr Sophie Ramsey (Melton)	
Attendees	<p>Ms Fiona Blair Chief Executive Officer, Brimbank Cr Diana Grima Hobsons Bay City Council</p> <p>Mr Aaron van Egmond Chief Executive Officer, Hobsons Bay</p> <p>Ms Celia Haddock Chief Executive Officer, Maribyrnong Cr Bernadette Thomas Maribyrnong City Council Cr Sophie Ramsey Chair, Melton City Council</p> <p>Ms Roslyn Wai Chief Executive Officer, Melton Cr Peter Maynard Deputy Chair, Wyndham City Council Mr Stephen Wall Chief Executive Officer, Wyndham Ms Hillary Hastings Executive Officer, LeadWest</p>	
Guests	<p>Mr Josh Chivers, Advocacy Officer, Maribyrnong Ms Pauline Hobbs, Advocacy Advisor, Melton Mr Elie Khalil, Advocacy Officer, Brimbank</p>	
Apologies	<p>Cr Jae Papalia, Brimbank City Council Cr Virginia Tachos (proxy) Brimbank City Council</p>	
Minutes	<p>Ms Hillary Hastings Executive Officer, LeadWest</p>	
File ref	24/257998	



LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee Meeting (DRAFT) MINUTES 19 June 2024

Key discussion points

Agenda Item

1. Welcome	Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement and Apologies
Acknowledgement	The Chair opened the meeting at 3:04pm. The Chair acknowledged and recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first peoples and Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waterways on which we live and paid respects to Elders past, present and future.
Apologies	The Chair welcomed LeadWest committee members and guests to the meeting. The Chair noted apologies were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cr Jae Papalia, Brimbank City Council▪ Cr Virginia Tachos (Proxy) Brimbank City Council
2. Conflicts of interest	Item 2 Conflict of Interest (to be declared in accordance with the 'Local Government Act 2020) No conflicts of interest were declared.
3. Minutes from the meeting held 13 March 2024	Item 3 Previous Minutes The minutes from the meeting held 13 March 2024 were adopted without amendment. Moved: Celia Haddock Seconded: Fiona Blair Carried: Yes
4. Actions	Item 4 Actions The action items from the previous meeting were listed. All have been successfully actioned. There were no follow up questions.



5. LeadWest (LW) Advocacy

Item 5.1 Better Bus Network Advocacy

The focus of recent advocacy has been meeting with MPs seeking their support for a review for better bus networks and services in Melbourne's west. The Chair and Deputy have so far met with 12 MPs with the recent highlights being the Deputy Premier Ben Carroll and Minister Natalie Hutchins.

The Chair mentioned that the LW Better Buses for Melbourne's West Advocacy has seen some strong wins.

She said last month the state government announced suburbs in Melbourne's west, north and south-east would receive \$150 million for new and improved bus services from its Growth Area Infrastructure Contribution fund. \$61m was allocated to Wyndham. Although this was a great win for the people of Wyndham LeadWest will continue to advocate for better outcomes for the entire region, especially noting over 40,000 people in Melton have no bus access.

Cr Maynard said that the new routes in Wyndham were a great win, but some very large housing estates situated in close proximity to the new routes were not included leaving many disadvantaged by no bus services.

Item 5.1 MP Meetings

Cr Maynard gave an update on the meeting with the Deputy Premier, which was positive, and an overview of 6 June Truganina Roundtable Buses and Transport community event hosted by Minister Williams and Sarah Connelly MP. Cr Maynard reported he had an opportunity to have some private conversations with Minister Williams and Ms Connolly around bus network issues in the wider west metro region.

Item 5.3 MP Roundtable event

The proposed advocacy roundtable event will be held at Wyndham City Council on 19 August 2-5pm. The committee discussed the guest list, format and purpose.

Action: EO to circulate event format and order of proceedings for review and comment.

Item 5.4 Regional Integrated Transport Strategy

Proposal to undertake a planning exercise on Bus Routes in the West, aimed to "untangle the spaghetti" of current bus routes. Melton has already undertaken considerable work for their municipality, and it would be valuable to expand this work to the wider LW region.



By forming a working group of the transport and planning experts from our Western Councils, we can bring the collective knowledge of the area together to identify challenges and opportunities in our public transport network.

The work will identify a network across the west that connects our key population, education, commercial and employment sites.

The output is aimed to facilitate a further discussion on the need for bus reform in the west, as well as identify “quick wins” we can table with the Department and local MPs to improve the current system, prior to widespread bus reform.

This work could prepare LeadWest with further evidence-based research for advocacy on the need for public transport investment in the west in 2025.

The CEOs will take this on for further discussion at an operational level.

Item 5.5 Media

23 Media articles/releases were noted. This is a significant improvement from recent years. The Chair highlighted some of the articles in the Age and Herald-Sun which supported our advocacy.

Item 5.6 Commissioning Research Data

LeadWest to commission research on government investments in Melbourne’s west versus other parts of Melbourne. This will provide the evidence to advocate that the west receives its fair share. The data can be used ahead of the next Federal election as well as in our conversations with political decision makers.

The committee agreed to spend up to \$50,000. If the research costs are more, it needs to be brought back to the committee through a circular resolution.

Motion

That the committee agrees to commission comparative research into State Government Project spending in Melbourne’s west vs east metro regions

Moved: Stephen Ward

Seconded: Cr Peter Maynard

Carried: Yes

	<p>Action: Prepare a brief and seek costings and delivery timelines from consultants</p> <p>Item 5.7 Active Transport/Regional Cycle Connectivity working group.</p> <p>This project is being led by Maribyrnong. All member councils are involved in the working group. The scope includes the need to collaborate and advocate for regional value cycling infrastructure regarding the many positive outcomes from cycling be it sport, recreation, tourism, transport or health.</p> <p>The EO updated the group on work around the cycle connectivity project. A mapping exercise has been undertaken and an action plan listing all sites in the region (including Moonee Valley) and the project scale of work was circulated in the agenda papers.</p>
<p>6. Budget</p>	<p>Item 6 – Budget Wrap</p> <p>The Committee discussed the recent state and federal budgets and the wins and losses for each council and the west metro region. There was agreement that the west and individual councils received little from recent budgets and members were not surprised at the very few wins. Melton reported they were successful with some new schools and pleased that previous pledges were not rescinded.</p>
<p>7.Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Item 7 Strategic Plan 2022-2024 Revising the document.</p> <p>LW Advocacy Officers and CEOs have spent considerable time reviewing and updating the document, with each revision circulated for feedback. The revised document was included in agenda papers. The committee discussed some changes to wording including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stephen Ward asked for an update to the East Werribee Precinct section to reflect recent positive outcomes for this project. Change wording to “continue to monitor the progress”. ▪ Aaron van Egmond asked to push for stronger results through the Greening the West Program and include reference to the economic benefits of utilisation and conversion of industrial land in the inner west. Focus on the protection of industries that support local jobs and economic growth but also, the transition of surplus or underperforming industrial land to residential or commercial use to meet future demand for retail floorspace and housing. ▪ Cr Maynard asked for a small number of word changes and fact checks <p>Action: Pauline Hobbs to check the current nomenclature for the OMR</p>



Item 8. WIFT

Action: Elie Khalil to provide the source for SRL \$8b funding figure cited in document

Action: Update revised LeadWest Strategic Plan 2024-2026 and circulate to CEOs. Official approval and endorsement at the September meeting.

Item 8 – WIFT

The Chair provided an update from Minister Horne’s office regarding Victoria’s Interstate Freight Terminals. This information was previously circulated to committee members.

The Chair reminded members that in 2021 the Victorian and Australian governments completed a joint investment case that recommended development of a new interstate freight terminal in Truganina in Melbourne’s west known as the WIFT. The investment case also recommended protecting land at Beveridge for a future terminal (BIFT).

However, the Minister’s office advised that since 2021, a few things have changed. The Victorian Government supports the Australian Government’s investment in interstate rail terminals in Melbourne, including at Beveridge.

The Commonwealth through NIC has prioritised delivery of BIFT in the short term. On this basis, the Victorian Government has decided to defer development of WIFT until additional capacity is needed.

The Minister’s office stated WIFT remains a priority and they will move to protect land at Truganina for when WIFT is needed.

Cr Maynard and Cr Ramsey expressed their concern at this decision to defer the development of the WIFT.

Item 9 – Position Statements

The Chair advised position statements form a toolkit and the basis for media enquiries and other communications. Each can be quickly tweaked according to specific need. This prepared suite of statements has already proven to create efficiencies and consistent messaging. The Chair said that we have already seen the benefit of our prepared statements and attributable quotes providing timely media responses recently to the Age for media articles.

The regular review of Position Statements is now a standing agenda item.

Item 9. Position Statements

Commented [EK(1): Aaron also mentioned to:
1.Go harder re Greening the West
2.Add info on the utilisation of industrial land
Let’s please also add this in.



The suite of LeadWest position statements were updated this month in collaboration with the Advocacy Advisers and CEOs from each of the member councils.

Refreshed statements were included in the agenda papers.

1. Overarching (About LeadWest)
2. A Regional Youth Mental Health Program
3. Active and Public Transport Networks
4. Funding the Outer Metropolitan Ring
5. Sunshine Precinct (and Airport Rail)
6. East Werribee Precinct (new)
7. Funding a Wetlands Centre in Hobsons Bay
8. Creative West
9. WIFT (new) – change the wording to “monitor the progress”.

Celia Haddock referred to the Victorian Government proposed new housing targets for local councils. The group discussed that this required the need for supporting infrastructure and the consequential impact on local councils. According to the government, the targets had been set largely based on access to jobs, transport and services needed by Victorians.

Stephen Ward said Wyndham will meet the target anyway with existing planning.

Cr Maynard will forward to small changes to wording of some of the statements.

Action: Include Housing in the suite of position statements.

Action: That the committee endorses and adopts the updated LeadWest suite of position statements at the next meeting subject to changes suggested today.

Item 10 Operations & Finance

The Executive Officer provided an update for the purpose of performance and financial position. This included:

- Operational Account details YTD (31 May 2024)
- Projected Budget 2024/25
- Trust Account transactions and balance

Motion: That the committee accepts the Finance report as included in agenda papers.

Item 10. Finance Report



**11.
Other Business**

Mover: Cr Maynard
Seconded: Stephen Wall
Carried: Yes

Item 11 Other Business

- The EO asked the committee if they were interested in a presentation from Melbourne Water talking about projects and partnerships. The committee agreed for this to happen at the September meeting.
- The Metro Alliances Executive Officers will meet bi-monthly with the first meeting scheduled for 14 July.
- Cr Maynard requested further updates to be made to the website.
- Next meeting changed from 15 September to 11 September due to election period (caretaker period) being brought forward.

Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked all in attendance and closed the meeting for general business at **4:58pm**.

Summary of actions arising from meeting 19 June 2024

1. **Item 4 Action: Roundtable event 19 August**
EO to circulate event format and order of proceedings for review and comment.
2. **Item 5.6 Action: Commissioning research data**
EO to prepare a brief and seek costings and delivery timelines from consultants.
Item 6 Position statements
3. **Action:** Include Housing in the suite of position Statement
Item 7 Actions Strategic Plan Revision
4. **Action:** Update the Strategic Plan to address the feedback noted.
5. **Action:** Update revised LeadWest Strategic Plan 2024-2026 and circulate to CEOs.

Commented [EK(2): As there are a few items to address here, as identified on the bottom of p5 of this doc, I think a general inclusive statement will suffice.