

Minutes

LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee

5 March 2025

	Meeting Details
Date	Wednesday 5 March 2025
Time	3:00pm
Location	Maribyrnong City Council Civic Precinct and Community Hub 61 Napier Street, Footscray
Chair	Cr Dr Phillip Zada
Minutes	Ms Hillary Hastings, Executive Officer, LeadWest

Minutes

Attendees	<p>Committee Members</p> <p>Cr Dr Phillip Zada, (Chair) Melton City Council Cr Katharine Nikolic, (Deputy Chair) Brimbank City Council Cr Diana Grima, Hobsons Bay City Council (online) Cr Peter Maynard, Wyndham City Council Cr Susan Yengi, Maribyrnong City Council Ms Fiona Blair, CEO Brimbank City Council Ms Celia Haddock, CEO Maribyrnong City Council Roslyn Wai, CEO Melton City Council Stephen Wall, CEO Wyndham City Council Hillary Hastings, Executive Officer LeadWest</p> <p>Guests (part)</p> <p>Mark Brady, Workshop Facilitator, Brimbank City Council</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Ms Rachel Lunn, Acting CEO Hobsons Bay City Council</p> <p>Minutes</p> <p>Hillary Hastings, Executive Officer LeadWest</p>
1. Welcome and Acknowledgement	<p>Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement, Introduction and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair declared the meeting open at 3:02pm.</p>
Introduction	<p>The Chair acknowledged and recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first peoples and traditional custodians of the land and waterways on which we live and paid respects to Elders past, present and future.</p>

<p>Apologies</p>	<p>The Chair welcomed the LeadWest committee members and thanked Maribyrnong CEO Ceclia Haddock for hosting the meeting and for the pre-meeting tour of the Civic Precinct and Community Hub Redevelopment.</p> <p>The chair advised the formal meeting will be a very short one and include only critical items. This will be followed by a facilitated LeadWest workshop with a focus on the history of LeadWest, our roles and how we can work together for better outcomes.</p> <p>The Chair noted an apology was received from: Ms Rachel Lunn, Acting CEO Hobsons Bay The Chair advised that Ms Kerry Thompson has now been appointed Acting CEO of Hobsons Bay and as such will part of the committee until we are advised otherwise.</p>
<p>2. Conflicts of interest</p>	<p>Item 2 Conflict of Interest (To be declared in accordance with the ‘Local Government Act 2020)</p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>
<p>3. Minutes from the meeting held 11 December 2024</p>	<p>Item 3 Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting held 11 December 2024 were adopted without amendment.</p> <p>Moved: Cr Katharine Nikolic Seconded: Sr Susan Yengi Carried: Yes</p>
<p>4. Actions</p>	<p>Item 4 Actions from previous meeting</p> <p>The action items from the previous meeting were listed in the agenda papers. All have been successfully actioned. There were no follow up questions.</p>
<p>5. Advocacy</p>	<p>Item 5 LeadWest Advocacy</p> <p>5.1 Federal Election Advocacy Canberra Visit</p> <p>The Chair led a LeadWest delegation to Parliament House Canberra on 11 and 12 February 2025 to meet with Federal Government MPs from various political parties.</p> <p>The purpose of the visit was to boost the profile of the alliance and to advocate for commitments ahead of the upcoming Federal Election.</p> <p>The group met with nine MPs including the Hon Catherine King Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government: Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon Tim Watts; Senator Steph Hodgins-May from the Australian Greens; Member for Fraser Dr Daniel Mulino, Member for Hawke Mr Sam Rae and Member for Wills Mr Peter Khalil</p>

The delegation also met with senior advisers from the offices of the Opposition Leader Mr Peter Dutton as well as the office of the Hon Kristy McBain, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories.

Delegation Attendees

Cr Dr Phillip Zada - Melton City Council, Chair of LeadWest
Cr Katharine Nikolic - Brimbank City Council, Deputy Chair of LeadWest
Cr Susan Yengi -LeadWest Cr Delegate, Maribyrnong City Council
Fiona Blair CEO Brimbank City Council
Roslyn Wai CEO Melton City Council
Lucas Gosling Director, Maribyrnong City Council
Hillary Hastings, Executive Officer LeadWest

The visit to Canberra provided a great opportunity to discuss unlocking investment to provide Melbourne’s West with transport connectivity, greater economic development, employment opportunities, urban renewal and improved wellbeing.

On behalf of LeadWest, the Chair offered thanks to the Government for the Creative West funding and the \$15M contribution to the Plumpton Pool via the Thriving Suburbs funding program (Minister King especially noted this funding)

Key points raised

- Melbourne’s West has been left behind for a long time, we are looking to redress this imbalance
- Investment that not only benefits the West, but also Victoria and Australia
- Transport and infrastructure projects were central to LeadWest’s advocacy efforts over the two-day delegation, including the construction of the Melbourne Airport Rail and the development of the Sunshine Precinct.
- LeadWest’s strong advocacy around the Melbourne Airport Rail was very timely considering the \$2 billion announcement by the Prime Minister last Thursday for work around Sunshine Station in preparation for the airport rail
- The need for infrastructure to support and match the rapid growth in the West

Key advocacy issues raised

- Electrification of the Melton and Wyndham rail lines – the \$300m announcement by the PM last week around the Melton rail upgrades and line electrification was welcomed
- The Western Highway to be upgraded to an urban standard, and for the construction of interchanges to connect the highway to new residential and employment precincts
- Action by State and Federal governments to fix the Calder Freeway, one of Australia’s most dangerous and congested roads
- A contribution towards the Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre in Hobsons Bay and the Plumpton Aquatic and Wellness Centre in Melton
- Ongoing funding to increase shade and provide more green spaces. Melbourne’s west has the greatest urban heat island effect across metropolitan Melbourne
- Investment to build an environmental wetlands centre in Altona (Greens Senator Steph Hodgins-May was extremely interested in this project and a site visit has been planned)

- The development of the ‘Sunshine Precinct’ and the construction of the Melbourne Airport Rail was a key discussion item with Minister King

It was pleasing to receive positive feedback from MPs that the delegation was well prepared with both presentation and supporting documents.

Cr Nikolic commented that she was pleased with MPs commenting about the strong *brand* and reputation of LeadWest.

5.2 MP Roundtables and Meetings

The Chair discussed meetings held at Parliament House Victoria on 4 March with David Ettershank MP, Moira Deeming MP and Sid Wynen (Chief of Staff to the Victorian Leader of the Opposition, Brad Battin), Minister Natalie Hutchins, Luba Grigorovitch MP and Steve McGhie MP.

Again, feedback was received that the LeadWest brand was strong, and MPs felt it was valuable to meet with the alliance on agreed top priority regional issues.

- As Deputy Chair in 2024 Cr Maynard discussed the approach to State MP meetings and how the approach was always to be non-aggressive and respectful towards local members.

Action: EO to work with Advocacy Officers Group to prepare a state election advocacy strategy campaign, including a brochure ready to action by September 2025

5.3 LeadWest Roadshow

The Chair invited discussion about the need for a Roadshow – the concept being the Chair, Deputy and EO to visit each council and present to their Councillors about the role of LeadWest.

- Cr Maynard believes there is no need for this, as there is already a strong knowledge of LeadWest
- CEO Celia Haddock commented that it is the role of the Councillor rep to provide feedback to their own Councillor group and additionally information is provided through delegate’s reports and LeadWest minutes being available through each council member’s governance department
- Cr Yengi commented there was an opportunity to talk about LeadWest activities during Councillor only time held each week.

5.4 Newsletter

The Chair proposed a LeadWest newsletter to highlight activity and achievements. The group discussed who was the audience for a newsletter? – Was it for an internal update or for an advocacy type tool which could be distributed to MPs or other stakeholders.

Action: EO to develop two formats, one external facing which could be used when visiting MPs and one to circulate for internal updates .

<p>6. Reports</p>	<p>Item 6 Reports</p> <p>6.1 Media The EO reported that there was a 100% increase in LW related advocacy media hits compared to the same period last year with 20 articles, interviews or releases. A media log with copies of all articles relating to LW is kept.</p> <p>6.2 Finance The Executive Officer provided an update for the purpose of performance and financial position. A briefing note was included in the agenda papers. The finance report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operational Account details YTD ▪ Tracking to Budget ▪ Trust Account transactions and balance. <p>The Executive Officer advised that at the end of each financial year there is a rollover of unspent funds from the Operational Account to the Trust Account. The Trust Account balance remains the same as last quarter. No unexpected variances to report</p> <p>Motion: That the committee accepts the Finance report as included in agenda papers. Mover: Cr Petr Maynard Seconded: Cr Susan Yengi Carried: Yes .</p>
<p>Item 7 Other business</p>	<p>Item 7 Other Business The Chair invited discussion on the idea of asking Moonee Valley Council to reconsider their membership of LeadWest. The City of Moonee Valley withdrew its membership of LeadWest effective 1 September 2020.</p> <p>Action: EO to prepare a letter on behalf of Chair to the City of Moonee Valley to enquire as to their interest rejoining LeadWest</p>
<p>Item 8 Close</p>	<p>The Chair again thanked all the members of LeadWest for their ongoing contribution and commitment.</p> <p>The Chair closed the Meeting at 3:47pm A facilitated workshop then commenced, concluding at 5:00pm</p>
<p>2025 Meeting Dates</p>	<p>Meeting Dates The 2025 meeting dates are 5 March, 4 June, 3 September and 3 December. Although the group previously agreed to alternate between in person and online meetings, it was decided face to face meetings were preferred. The 4 June meeting will be hosted Melton City Council.</p>

Action Summary from meeting 5 March 2025

Action Item 5.2 (State Election 2026 Advocacy Priorities) : EO to work with Advocacy Officers Group to prepare a state election advocacy strategy campaign, ready to action by September 2025

Action Item 5.4 (Newsletter): EO to develop two formats, one external facing which could be used when visiting MPs and one to circulate for internal updates

Action Item 7: EO to prepare a letter on behalf of Chair to Moonee Valley City Council to enquire as to interest rejoining LeadWest