

Minutes

LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee

4 June 2025

Meeting Details

Date	Wednesday 4 June 2025
Time	3:00pm
Location	Melton City Council Grey Box Room – Civic Centre 232 High Street, Melton And online option
Chair	Cr Dr Phillip Zada
Minutes	Hillary Hastings, Executive Officer, LeadWest
Attendees	In person Cr Dr Phillip Zada, (Chair) Melton City Council Cr Katharine Nikolic, (Deputy Chair) Brimbank City Council Roslyn Wai, CEO Melton City Council Stephen Wall, CEO Wyndham City Council Hillary Hastings, Executive Officer LeadWest Guest - Elie Khalil, Brimbank City Council Online Fiona Blair, CEO Brimbank City Council Cr Diana Grima, Hobsons Bay City Council Kerry Thompson, Interim CEO Hobsons Bay City Council Cr Susan Yengi, Maribyrnong City Council Celia Haddock, CEO Maribyrnong City Council Cr Peter Maynard, Wyndham City Council

Minutes

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement	<p>Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement, Introduction and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair declared the meeting open at 3:05pm.</p> <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>
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<p>Introduction</p>	<p>The Chair welcomed the LeadWest committee members and guests and thanked Melton CEO Roslyn Wai for hosting the meeting. The Chair welcomed Ms Kerry Thompson Interim Chief Executive Officer, Hobsons Bay City Council and noted her long history with LeadWest.</p>
<p>Apologies</p>	<p>The Chair noted no apologies were received.</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 previous meeting</p>	<p>Item 3 Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting held 5 March 2025 were adopted without amendment.</p> <p>Moved: Stephen Wall Seconded: Cr 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 - Activity</p> <p>The Chair provided an update on activity. The LeadWest 2025 Federal Election Campaign commenced in January with an official launch and was active until the federal election in May. The chair highlighted activity around media releases and media engagement; letters to all Federal MPs in our region and relevant ministers; meetings were sought with key decision makers and a delegation to Parliament House Canberra in February. The purpose of the visit to was to boost the profile of the alliance and to advocate for commitments (as listed in our advocacy priorities brochure) ahead of the upcoming Federal Election. Cr Grima reported that Senator for Victoria Steph Hodgins-May (Greens) visited the Altona Wetlands as a follow up from the LeadWest delegation meeting with the Senator in Canberra.</p> <p>5.2 Advocacy Wins</p> <p>The Chair listed the advocacy wins and commented on the significance of these projects to the region. The Chair advised of the success of the advocacy campaign with funding for seven from nine of our key 2025 federal advocacy asks announced.</p>

5.3 Letters of Congratulations to MPs post federal election

- Letters of congratulations were sent to all Federal MPs in our region following the federal election on 3 May. He noted the promotion to Ministerial positions for Dr Daniel Mulino from Fraser and Sam Rae from Hawke.
- Letters were sent to all re-elected MPs and those that we met with during our Canberra visit. Acknowledging Minister Catherine King was especially important given the huge infrastructure wins that were announced shortly after meeting with her. A letter of congratulations was sent to the Prime Minister.
- The chair noted that the LeadWest region now has a strong and high-level federal parliament representation – and with Minister Catherine King and Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles on our region’s borders there is a real opportunity for continued advocacy success on a federal level.

5.4 Lock up – State Budget

The LeadWest Chair was invited to the State Budget lock-up at Parliament House. This pre-budget briefing is only afforded to stakeholders that the Victorian Government deems to be VIPs. During the lock-up, several Ministerial staffers commented on LeadWest’s recent achievements and congratulated LeadWest on boosting its profile. The Chair was also invited to the State Budget Lunch on the following day held at the Victorian Chamber of Commerce. This exclusive event provided a rare opportunity to engage directly with the new Victorian Treasurer, Jaclyn Symes MP, ask questions and connect with key business and industry leaders shaping Victoria’s economic future.

5.5 Strategy – 2026 State Election Strategy and Brochure

The LeadWest Advocacy Officers Advisory Group have been working together to recommend a list of advocacy asks for the 2026 state election. They aligned advocacy asks to the LeadWest Strategic Plan and identified emerging issues such as Homelessness and Cost of Living. The committee discussed the recommendations. It was agreed for the CEOs to discuss the list within their own councils and reconvene in July for a special meeting to agree on and finalise the LeadWest 2026 State election priority advocacy asks. Steven Wall suggested the list should be reduced to 6-8 asks. Cr Yengi suggested the inclusion of smaller asks for quick wins.

An advocacy campaign approach was discussed, including holding meetings and forums with not just existing MPs but including candidates.

5.6 MP Meetings

The Chair noted the success of the roundtable with Victorian Opposition Leader Brad Battin MP and Moira Deeming Member for Western Metropolitan held on Friday 4 April.

Upcoming MP Meetings:

- Minister Melissa Horne on behalf of the Premier. This meeting was requested earlier in the year as a *meet and greet* for the new LW Chair. Scheduled for 23 June.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gabrielle Williams Minister for Transport Infrastructure and Public and Active Transport meeting scheduled for 17 July. • The Chair made an approach to Treasurer Jaclyn Syme MP. Her office will schedule a meeting with LeadWest later in the year. • Meetings with State MPs will be scheduled for October/November following completion of the state election advocacy brochure. Celia Haddock requested that LW Cr reps attend any meetings where the MP is from their LGA. Request for Cr Yengi to attend the Minister Horne meeting. <p>Actions:</p> <p>5.5 Strategy 2026 State Election Advocacy CEOs to discuss advocacy priorities lists within their own councils. Reconvene in July for a special meeting to discuss and agree on 2026 State election advocacy asks.</p> <p>5.6 MP Meetings Include Cr Yengi in the meeting with Minister Horne</p>
<p>6. Reports</p>	<p>Item 6 Reports</p> <p>6.1 Media & Communications The EO reported that there was an increase in LW related advocacy media hits compared to the same period last year with 32 articles, interviews or releases. A media log with copies of all articles relating to LW is kept.</p> <p>The committee discussed the need for a social media strategy and review of the communication strategy. Cr Nikolic would like to see more human-interest stories in our communication materials and removal of the use of stock images. Stephen Wall suggested it was time to shift to a positive narrative about the potential of the west and move away from negative/disadvantaged tones.</p> <p>At the previous meeting the committee requested a quarterly newsletter. The inaugural LeadWest News from the Chair was distributed in March the second edition is due by end June.</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>Cr Maynard requested clarification on a budget line in other costs. This will be provided.</p> <p>Motion: That the committee accepts the Finance report as included in agenda papers.</p> <p>Mover: Cr Katharine Nikolic</p> <p>Seconded: Cr Diana Grima</p> <p>Carried: Yes</p> <p>6.2 Federal Election Advocacy Campaign</p> <p>Melton City Council requested a report on LeadWest’s 2025 Federal Election advocacy campaign and outcomes. The Chair’s report was included in the agenda papers and is available to all member councils if requested.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>Item 6.2 EO to Provide Cr Maynard breakdown on budget line in Other Costs</p>
<p>7. Greening the West</p>	<p>Item 7 Approach by Greening the West (GTW) for Auspice</p> <p>The Chair of Greening the West sent the EO a proposal requesting LW consider the potential for LeadWest to provide a platform for the continued governance and coordination of the GTW initiative. This was attached to the agenda papers. The Executive Officer advised that as this was an operational matter it could be discussed with the CEOs and their Director levels to gain a better understanding of GTW’s position.</p>
<p>8. Membership</p>	<p>Item 8 Membership Moonee Valley City Council (MVC)</p> <p>The Chair provided a status update on the invitation to Moonee Valley City Council to reconsider their membership of LeadWest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A date was offered to present at a briefing to Moonee Valley Councillors on 16 June, however, this was postponed due to timing of their Council’s consideration for Advocacy Strategy (which includes partnerships). They will provide another set of possible dates in the coming months. • A draft presentation to MVC has been prepared.
<p>9. Presentations</p>	<p>Item 9 Presentation - Refreshed Bike Superhighway Network</p> <p>Guest presenters rescheduled</p> <p>RACV were scheduled to present on their report <i>Refreshed Bike Superhighway Network</i>. However, they needed to cancel due to presenter unavailability. They have asked to present to the September meeting. This topic aligns to LeadWest’s regional trail paths and cycle connectivity advocacy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EO advised she had received an approach from Western Public Health Unit to present on health issues in the west and strategies to reduce chronic illness. The committee would welcome that opportunity. • Another presentation opportunity has been requested by Louise Koschmann Deputy Director, Stakeholder Relations & Communications, Regional Rail Revival Melbourne Airport Rail – the committee agreed this would also be of value.

	<p>Action: EO to coordinate presentations from RACV, Western Public Health and Regional Rail Revival/Melbourne Airport Rail at either the September meeting or as a separate event.</p>
<p>10. Other business</p>	<p>Item 10 Other Business</p> <p>1. The Chair advised he welcomed direct feedback from the committee, and this would enhance his performance as Chair.</p> <p>2. The Executive Officer will be retiring effective 20 August 2025. Although her intentions to retire in 2025 were known, it has now been formalised.</p> <p>Cr Maynard expressed he had an issue with process and not being aware that recruitment for the new for the new Executive Officer had commenced. Fiona Blair explained the process of recruitment. The committee discussed how the recruitment of a new Executive Officer is an operational matter in accordance with the Terms of Reference.</p>
<p>Close</p>	<p>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 4:24pm</p>
<p>2025 Meeting Dates</p>	<p>Meeting Dates</p> <p>The 2025 meeting dates are 5 March, 4 June, 3 September and 3 December.</p> <p>Next meeting (3 September) will be virtual</p>

Actions Summary from meeting 4 June 2025

Actions: Items 5.5 Strategy 2026 State Election Advocacy

1. CEOs to discuss advocacy priorities lists within their own councils.
2. EO to organise a special meeting in July to finalise the asks for the 2026 state election campaign.

Action: Item 5.6 MP Meetings

3. Include Cr Yengi in the meeting with Minister Horne

Action: Item 6.2 Finance Report

4. EO to Provide Cr Maynard breakdown on budget line in Other Costs

Action: Item 9 Guests presentations

5. EO to coordinate presentations from RACV, Western Public Health and Regional Rail Revival/Melbourne Airport Rail at either the September meeting or as a separate event.