

MEDIA RELEASE

6 October 2021

DISAPPOINTED WITH MOLONGLO COMMERCIAL CENTRE DELAYS

The Molonglo Valley Community Forum (MVCF) today expressed its profound disappointment with the Molonglo Commercial Centre being delayed by a further two years, as revealed in the 2021 ACT Budget.

Interim spokesperson for the MVCF, Ryan Hemsley, said the delays are incredibly frustrating for residents of the Molonglo Valley, who have had to rely on neighbouring facilities in Weston Creek since 2012, which are already under significant pressure.

“Today the ACT Government has reneged on an explicit promise made at last year’s election to ‘fast track’ work on this important commercial precinct. This will leave residents of Molonglo without access to local community and retail facilities for at least another decade.

“To describe this as disappointing is an understatement. Our local members are well aware of the difficulties Molonglo residents have faced in terms of equitable access to shops, community facilities and other critical services, as well as the impact this has had on residents of neighbouring districts.

“This inexplicable two-year delay will only serve to further entrench these existing inequalities as the Molonglo Valley continues to grow over the course of the next ten years and beyond.”

Mr Hemsley said that residents were eager to collaborate with the ACT Government to ensure first-class development outcomes for the Molonglo Commercial Centre, which has been planned since 2006.

The MVCF has reached out to the Minister for Planning to request clarification on why this delay has occurred despite his assurances in April 2021 that the first land release was on track to occur in 2021-22.

END

A copy of a letter sent to the Minister for Planning regarding this delay is included at [Attachment A](#).

MEDIA CONTACT

Ryan Hemsley

Interim spokesperson

Molonglo Valley Community Forum

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The Molonglo Valley Community Forum’s objective is to preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental well being of the Molonglo Valley and its community.

Attachment A



Mr Mick Gentleman
Manager of Government Business
Minister for Planning and Land Management
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020,
Canberra, ACT 2601

6 October 2021

Dear Minister Gentleman,

Delay to the Molonglo Commercial Centre

We are writing to you regarding the two-year delay to the first commercial land release of the Molonglo Commercial Centre, as revealed in today's ACT Budget papers.

At the 2020 Territory Election, ACT Labor made an explicit commitment to "fast track" the Molonglo Commercial Centre (see [Attachment A](#)). Based on the latest available indicative land release program (2019-20 to 2022-23) this would have entailed releasing the first piece of land in 2021-22. This timeline is consistent with your letter to the Molonglo Valley Community Forum in April 2021 (see [Attachment B](#)).

We would sincerely appreciate your urgent clarification as to why this land release has been delayed to 2023-24, as detailed in the Indicative Land Release Program (2021-22 to 2025-26) released today as part of the 2021 ACT Budget.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Hemsley
Interim Spokesperson
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 Find us on Facebook [@mvcommunityforum](#)

Attachment A

LABOR'S PLAN FOR
Molonglo

Labor^{ACT}

AUTHORISED BY MELISSA JAMES FOR ACT LABOR.

- 1** **STROMLO DISTRICT PLAYING FIELDS**
- 2** **A NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AND MOLONGLO LIBRARY**
- 3** **FAST TRACKED MOLONGLO COMMERCIAL CENTRE**
- 4** **MOLONGLO FIRE & AMBULANCE STATION**
- 5** **A NEW BRIDGE TO COMPLETE JOHN GORTON DRIVE**
- 6** **A NEW WALK-IN HEALTH CENTRE**
- 7** **NEW PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS**

Attachment B



Mick Gentleman MLA
Manager of Government Business
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety
Member for Brindabella

21/28951

Mr Ryan Hemsley
Interim Spokesperson
Molonglo Valley Community Forum
info@mvcommunityforum.org.au

Dear Mr Hemsley

Thank you for your letters of 30 March 2021 about the Coombs peninsula and the Molonglo commercial centre. I also note that we met in person on Thursday 15 April 2021 and also discussed the items in your correspondence.

The Coombs peninsula has undergone extensive environmental assessment. These showed that the area had low environmental value due to its past use as a commercial pine plantation. This made the area not suitable for inclusion into the adjacent Molonglo River Reserve.

For the final zoning of the peninsula to be determined in accordance with the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, a development application for an estate development plan is required to be lodged with the independent planning and land authority. No application has been lodged at this time.

The area also does not appear on the Indicative Land Release Program associated with the 2020-21 Budget. The future of the area may be considered further as part of the next ACT Budget and the new Indicative Land Release Program.

Block 3, Section 17 Coombs is the final Community Facility Site to be released in Coombs. The release timing for the site is currently being considered as part of the development of the 2021-22 ACT Government Indicative Land Release Program.

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Prior to its scheduled release, the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) will consult with the community on the site's future uses in accordance with those allowed under the Community Facility zoning in the Territory Plan. These uses include a Community Activity Centre.

In relation to the Molonglo Commercial Centre, planning for this is well underway. The centre will include land for supermarkets, retail, commercial, emergency services and community facilities such as education facilities and a library. The Government recognises that this is important for delivering services for this growing region.


I anticipate the first stages of land associated with this centre to be released next financial year.

Following the initial release, land will continue to be progressively released, as occurred with the Gungahlin Town Centre.

The method of land release has yet to be considered by the SLA. A land release strategy will be developed by the SLA once planning is finalised. Market conditions and opportunities for innovative solutions will be considered at that time.

Thank you for raising these matters with me and I hope this information is of benefit.

Yours sincerely



Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning and Land Management
22/4/2021