

Molonglo Valley Community Forum Public Meeting

Speaking Notes – 28 April 2022

- Good evening everyone, and welcome to the Molonglo Valley Community Forum's second in-person public meeting for 2022.
- My name is Ryan Hemsley, and I am once again here in my capacity as the Convenor of the Molonglo Valley Community Forum.
- Let me start off by noting that we that we are hosting this meeting from the Charles Weston School, and acknowledge that we on the lands of the Ngunnawal people.
- I would like to pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of the ACT.
- For those joining us for the first time, the Molonglo Valley Community Forum is a non-political and secular group with the objective to preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Molonglo Valley and its community.
- The Forum has been set up to seek input from the voices of the entire Molonglo Valley as it continues to grow and develop into a district of some 55,000 people over the coming decades.
- Meetings such as this one provide residents of the Molonglo Valley with the opportunity to learn about what is happening in our district.
- We are streaming tonight's proceedings online via our facebook page, so if you have any questions, please feel free to ask them in the stream. A recording of this evening's proceedings will also be made available.

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- Tonight, we will be discussing the plans for the Molonglo Group Centre – the principal retail, commercial, education and community hub for the Molonglo Valley.
- We will also be joined by Mr Andrew Parkinson from the ACT Education Directorate, who will be talking to us about a proposal to enclose the Coombs Oval.
- Towards the end of the meeting, I will also be providing a short update on the Forum's activities.
- Any present MLAs will be provided with an opportunity to speak later this evening.

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- So let us kick off tonight's proceedings by inviting Mr Parkinson, from the ACT Education Directorate, to talk to us about a proposal to enclose the Coombs Oval.

<1.6M HIGH FENCE PRESENTATION>

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- All right, do we have any questions either in the room or online?

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<QUESTIONS>

- No worries, well thank you very much for joining us this evening.

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- Alrighty, we now move on to our second presentation for this evening on the Molonglo Group Centre – what it means for you, and how you can have your say.

<MOLONGLO GROUP CENTRE PRESENTATION>

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- The Molonglo Group Centre, also known as the Molonglo Commercial Centre and the Molonglo Town Centre, is located in the area bounded by the Molonglo Rive Corridor

to the north and east, Denman Prospect to the west and North Coombs to the south.

- As might be expected, this graphic illustrates how it sits in the geographic heart of the Molonglo Valley.

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- From the very early days of planning Molonglo, it was envisioned that there would be a commercial area located at the centre of the district to serve as the principal community, retail and commercial hub of the Molonglo Valley, as it grew to a total population of some 55,000 people
- The images on this slide illustrate how the planning for the group centre has evolved over the past fifteen years, in response to changing demographic trends and perhaps most importantly, a better appreciation of the significant environmental values of the Molonglo River and surrounds.
- Indeed, a significant amount of government resources has been poured into plans and strategies to manage and maintain the environmental significance of the Molonglo River Corridor.

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- From left to right, the ones listed here are:
 - The 2011 Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance
 - The 2012 Molonglo River Park Concept Plan
 - The 2013 Molonglo River Reserve Adaptive Management Strategy, and
 - The 2019 Molonglo River Reserve Management Plan.

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- The result of these plans is a 23 kilometre stretch of protected river and riverside habitat resulting from the combination of the Kama, Molonglo River and Lower

Molonglo River reserves, together with new areas, to create the Molonglo River Reserve.

- The creation of this reserve means that a firm boundary has been put in place to ensure that development does not impact on the environmental values of the Molonglo River corridor.
- Development in the Molonglo Valley is therefore limited to the areas of land that have already been zoned for development. Development is not permitted to encroach on the river corridor and strict mitigation measures must be put in place to ensure the ongoing protection of the reserve.
- The plans for the Molonglo Group Centre that we will be discussing this evening have been informed by this work, and consequently are consistent with the legislated boundaries and environmental management strategies for the Molonglo River reserve.

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- In last year's ACT Budget it was revealed that the first land release for the group centre had been delayed by two years to 2023-24.
- The reason that was given at the time was that the Planning Directorate wanted that additional time to consult with the community.
- Following a motion in the Assembly by Mrs Giulia Jones MLA calling on the ACT Government to outline what work had been done to date and precisely when this consultation was expected to begin, the updated concept plan was released to the public in December of last year.
- It was also revealed that consultation on planning work for the group centre is going to commence and continue through 2022 and beyond.

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- As you can see in this diagram, there are many, many more steps between where we are now and when the first stage of shops open, which is likely to be in the later part of this decade.
- Many of these steps, undertaken by the Planning Authority, the Suburban Land Agency, and finally the successful tenderer for the delivery of the group centre, will involve their own detailed community consultation, as we get closer towards delivering an actual functional set of shops and facilities.
- That being said, it is important to underline that over the past five months, we have moved from here...

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- to here

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- to here

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- And what that means, is that we now have a document open for public consultation which will have a material impact on how the group centre will be developed over the coming decades.
- So, what does it entail, and how can you have your say?

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- The document, known by its catchy title of *Technical Amendment TA2022-01 – Introduction of Molonglo Group Centre and Surrounds Concept Plan and rezoning of land within the future urban area of Molonglo and changes to the Commercial Zones Development Code April 2022*, proposes a concept plan which introduces a series of planning requirements to be incorporated into the Territory Plan.

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- The Territory Plan is an enormous piece of ACT Government legislation which guides planning and development in the ACT. New development cannot be approved by the ACT Planning Authority unless it is consistent with the various planning requirements outlined in the Territory Plan.
- The provisions of Technical Amendment TA2022-01, which for simplicity's sake I will henceforth refer to as either *The Technical Amendment*, or *The Concept Plan* as they are relatively interchangeable, will guide the development of the future *Estate Development Plan* for the Molonglo Group Centre and surrounds.

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- As seen on this slide in yellow, the Estate Development Plan, or EDP for short, is the next step in the planning and development of the Group Centre.
- The EDP provides an even greater level of planning detail for specific development sites, and seeks approval for the construction of the fundamental building blocks of a suburb, namely roads, parks, trees and other municipal infrastructure.

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- Here you can see the concept plan for the suburb of Coombs, which also covers the suburb of Wright.
- This illustrates the high-level design concepts for the suburb, including the general location of shops, parks, roads, schools, community facilities and residential areas.
- This plan was introduced into the Territory Plan in 2008. This graphic was also accompanied by a series of planning requirements, known as *rules* and *criteria*, against which a future EDP would need to be consistent with to receive planning approval.

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- We will touch on those again a bit later, but put very simply, rules are planning requirements which are largely quantitative in nature, whereas criteria are more qualitative.
- This extract from the Coombs Concept Plan look at the proposed land uses and desired planning outcomes for the suburb of Coombs. Any EDP that is lodged must explain how it complies with these planning requirements.

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- This next slide shows the approved Coombs EDP, as developed by the Land Development Agency in 2011. Next to it you can see an example of how the EDP responded to the relevant planning requirements of the Coombs Concept Plan.
- As the Coombs EPD was determined by the Planning Authority to be consistent with the planning requirements outlined in the Coombs Concept Plan, it was subsequently approved and became the bones around which the suburb of Coombs was developed.
- Now that we have a basic understand of how it works, let's take a look at what is actually proposed as part of the Molonglo Group Centre Concept Plan contained in the Technical Amendment.

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- The Technical Amendment consists firstly of an introduction, which outlines the vision for the Molonglo Group Centre, which it describes in the following terms:
 - The Molonglo Group Centre is the primary commercial centre for the community in the Molonglo Valley.
 - The group centre will be a focus for community life with safe and inviting public spaces and streets for people to linger and easily move around the centre.

- o Buildings and infrastructure will be designed and delivered through best practice urban design, sustainability and innovation principles.
- o Public transport and active travel routes will seamlessly connect the centre to the surrounding neighbourhoods, recreational spaces and to the wider areas of Canberra.
- o The Molonglo River corridor, surrounding landscape and hills are key landscape features that will be celebrated through the design of the built form to provide places, parks and recreational opportunities for the people who visit, work and live in the Molonglo Valley

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- The Amendment also described the purpose of the Concept Plan, which it claims will to provide a planning and design framework to:
 - o guide the design and assessment of the Molonglo Group Centre and surrounds
 - o guide the design and development of individual blocks and the public realm.
 - o inform the allocation of final land use zones at the time when a parcel of land ceases to be part of the future urban area following subdivision – we'll touch on that a bit later – and
 - o ensure that planning and development is consistent with the Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment.

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- The plan also outlines a series of high-level planning and design principles, these being:
 - o Sustainability and innovation
 - o A place for community and economic life
 - o Connection to place and the Molonglo River Corridor
 - o A built form that responds to Molonglo's landscape

- o An accessible Group Centre that is connected to broader travel networks, and
- o A legible and safe commercial centre.
- Each of these principles is further articulated in 13 key elements containing specific planning requirements against which a future Estate Development Plan will be measured.

- These are as follows:

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- Proposed land use zones
 - o This section deals with the proposed land use zoning for the sites within the group centre and surrounds, including the future third stage of Denman Prospect, to be located on the other side of John Gorton Drive opposite the core commercial area.
 - o It outlines the nine different types of land use zones proposed for the group centre, along with an illustration of where they should be located.
 - o These zones will determine what kind of development is permitted to be built on certain sections of the centre. Blue represents commercial development, yellow is community facilities such as schools, and green is open space.
 - o Red is residential development. The lighter the shade of red, the less dense the permitted type of development.
 - o As you can see in this graphic, the group centre is already zoned for development, with some very coarse land uses.
 - o The Technical Amendments proposes a much finer grain level of detail on the proposed land uses, and pulls back the development from the river corridor in line with the legislated boundaries and

environmental requirements of the reserve management plan.

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- Emergency services
 - This element is very simple – it deals with the location and size of emergency services sites within the Molonglo Group Centre, requiring that they be of an appropriate size and endorsed by the relevant agency.

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- Community facilities
 - This element outlines the type of community facilities that will need to be delivered as part of the Molonglo Group Centre.
 - A minimum of 16.7 hectares of community facilities will need to be provided in the group centre, from medium to smaller scale facilities such as a library, right up to larger sites for schools.
 - This element requires that future planning work feature a *Community Needs Assessment*, which identifies which community facilities will be delivered and where they will be located.
 - We have a few issues with this particular element, which we will touch on later.

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- Dwelling yield
 - This element is self-explanatory – it deals with the number of homes that will be built in the Group Centre and environs.

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- Movement networks

- o This element provides guidance for the future design and location of roads, footpaths, cycleways, public transport routes and facilities, end of trip and bike and ride facilities in the group centre.
- o An improvement on previous plans is that the main public transport interchange is now located mostly in the group centre, rather than entirely out on John Gorton Drive as had been previously considered.
- o This section is also explicit in requiring verges, footpaths and cycle paths to be of an appropriate grade to maintain accessibility for pedestrians and assistive mobility equipment, while as far as possible minimising cut and fill.

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- Open space networks and parks
 - o This element describes the variety of formal and informal spaces to be delivered as part of the group centre, which include:
 - areas of natural habitat
 - ponds for stormwater management
 - a town park
 - a town plaza
 - local parks
 - urban open space connections
 - linkages to the Molonglo River Reserve and Craven Creek to the west
 - east-west green link, and
 - large canopy trees which promote movement of birdlife and wildlife and mitigate the urban heat island effect.

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- Urban edge and bushfire management

- o Of particular importance given the location of the Molonglo Group Centre is its urban edge with the river corridor.
- o This element provides clear guidance for managing this important interface, by establishing it as a clear perimeter for urban development to protect the values of the Molonglo River Corridor.
- o It also establishes a preliminary bushfire protection zone and requires that the future urban edge treatment and bushfire mitigation measures receive approval from the Emergency Services Agency and Transport Canberra City Services.

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- Use
 - o This element provides further design guidance for the provision of commercial zoned land and restricts residential development in the service trades area to reduce the likelihood of incompatible land uses.
 - o Let's be real – who really wants to live on top of a Bunnings?

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- Buildings
 - o This element deals with key building heights in the group centre. The maximum height of buildings in the core area is six storeys, subject to building envelope controls to preserve solar access to streets and public spaces.
 - o There is provision for three taller building elements of up to 16 storeys at specified locations, subject to a series of strict criteria limiting floorplate size and requiring interesting architecture and green infrastructure.

- o This will be one to watch, as we want to see those requirements for high quality design transfer over to the next stage of planning.
- o Suffice to say Canberra has had more than its fair share of significant buildings of dubious architectural merit in recent years, and we should seize the opportunity to avoid a further repeat of that here in the Molonglo Group Centre.

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- Parking and site access
 - o This element deals with parking and it is pretty bare bones.
 - o There isn't a lot in here that would improve on the usual practice of an enclosed concrete box surrounded by an ocean of bitumen, as seen in other parts of Canberra.
 - o Previous iterations of the plan were a bit cleverer in terms of how they made better use of the limited land at the group centre without impacting the number of parking spaces provided.
 - o We'll will come to that a bit later.

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- Road hierarchy and design
 - o This element deals with the proposed road network around the group centre.
 - o A main street is proposed to run up the middle of the group centre, lined with shops, street furniture and leafy shade trees.
 - o This section also focuses on the two larger roads in the form of John Gorton Drive, which will extend north to Whitlam, and Holborow Avenue, which will extend east to the Tuggeranong Parkway.

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- Sustainability and innovation
 - This element expands upon other parts of the plan by requiring that buildings maintain solar access and limit overshadowing and wind impacts on public spaces and streets, as well as encourage high building energy efficiency.

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- Open space networks
 - This final element provides further clarity on the proposed open spaces provided in the group centre, requiring consultation with key Ngunnawal community groups to ensure public spaces such as parks and plazas are designed to celebrate Ngunnawal culture.
 - It also provides guidance for the design of the town plaza in the heart of the group centre, to ensure it is of sufficient size to accommodate temporary uses such as markets, stalls and community activities.

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- And that largely sums up what the document covers.
- The Technical Amendment is currently open for viewing and public comment until next Friday, 6 May 2022.
- And for what it's worth, I would say that this plan represents a pretty good start.
- As I'll touch on in the next section, there are some parts which would be good to see retained as the project continues towards the detailed design and deliver phase, and some parts that could be improved.
- So, how to we go about retaining the good bits of the plan?

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- Now, there is an interesting quirk in how the Territory Plan works, in terms of what bits of it apply and when. I hope this graphic is helpful in explaining this.
- Once an Estate Development Plan is approved, the planning requirements of the Concept Plan, which were used to assess the compliance of the EDP, then cease to apply to the area of land that the EDP covers.
- However, EDPs can introduce their own planning rules and criteria into the Territory Plan that will continue to apply after the Concept Plan loses effect with the approval of the EDP.
- These can be very detailed and micro in nature, such as the minimum setbacks for individual residential blocks, or more high-level, such as what sort of facilities need to be included in a piece of community-zoned land.
- What I am trying to get at here, is that the provisions of the Molonglo Group Centre concept plan introduced as part of this Technical Amendment will only be used to guide the approval of the Molonglo Group Centre Estate Development Plan, after which a new set of rules and criteria will apply which will shape the development of individual sites.
- That's not to say the Concept Plan isn't worth caring about – far from it. However, it is worth placing it in its proper context as the latest chapter of a planning process stretching back some 15 years, which will guide the next stage of development, without necessarily determining the precise outcomes of what actually gets built.
- If we want specific planning requirements to be retained in the Territory Plan right through to the end to ensure they are considered in the assessment of individual buildings, we need to make sure they are then subsequently and explicitly included in the Estate Development Plan.

- For example, the Concept Plan contains a very good set of planning criteria relating to the design of taller building elements of the group centre, to ensure they possess significant architectural merit, green infrastructure and don't have a negative solar or wind impact on public open spaces.
- Because of how the Territory Plan is structured, these criteria will not be considered in the assessment of development applications for individual buildings, unless they were respecified as specific rules in the approved Estate Development Plan.
- If they are included in the Estate Development Plan, then they will be included in the newly-formed Precinct Code, which is a Territory Plan document that contains all the ongoing planning requirements that apply to a specific area, and with which buildings in that area have to comply.
- This is a very long-winded way of saying that the good bits of this plan are good, but they won't have any effect on the actual development of the Group Centre unless that are subsequently restated in the next stage of planning work.
- Certainly the Forum will be doing everything in its power to ensure this does happen, but this isn't guaranteed and it will require ongoing scrutiny by the community.

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- So, let's get on to some specifics.
- One issue that is of particular importance for the Molonglo Valley is the provision of community facilities.
- After all, the Group Centre is designed to be the central community focus for the Molonglo Valley and its future 55,000 residents.
- We need to ensure that there is adequate capacity for the centre to deliver facilities that meet the demands not just of residents who live in the centre, but also the current residents of Coombs, Wright, Denman Prospect, Whitlam

and the numerous future Molonglo suburbs that have yet to be built.

- We need to be thinking long term to understand the likely needs of the community, without necessarily locking in specific details that could preclude the delivery of facilities that we are not yet able to anticipate.
- As seen on this slide, Planning Criteria 8 of the Concept Plan does require that a *Community Needs Assessment* be undertaken as part of an unspecified future detailed planning stage.
- However, it does not go into any detail about the scope of that assessment. There is a risk that it could be incredibly narrow in focus and look only at the community needs of the immediate surrounds, rather than taking a bigger, more holistic picture.
- There is also a risk that it could be undertaken as a piece of desktop research by a consultant from somewhere in Sydney or Melbourne, without ever actually talking to people who currently live in the Molonglo Valley about their needs.
- Either outcome would represent an incredible missed opportunity that could have significant longer-term consequences for the provision of sorely needed community facilities in the Molonglo Valley.
- We will therefore be requesting that this planning criteria be strengthened to ensure that it specifies the scope of the Assessment, and that existing residents are consulted on where they think the community facility gaps currently are in the Molonglo Valley.
- The next issue is one that has been raised with us by residents, and it relates to the issue of transport.

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- There are multiple dimensions to this issue, so we'll start off with the one that has been raised at multiple of our previous public meetings on this issue – active travel.
- On the left is the proposed active travel networks featured as part of the current concept plan. On-road cycle routes are shown in green-blue, the central “shared zone” in yellow and off-road shared paths in orange.
- Not shown here, but nonetheless a standard requirement for new residential estates in the ACT, are footpaths on either one or both sides of newly constructed roads.
- A lot of concerns with the active travel networks, which we have previously relayed to the Planning Authorities, is the reliance on on-road cycle lanes on the major arterial roads.
- This is not the preferred outcome for either motorists or cyclists, as it results in a significant amount of conflict between the two road users and is not particularly safe for cyclists.
- This issue of separation also relates to the separation of pedestrians and cyclists, of which none is proposed as part of the current plan.
- In short, if you are a cyclist, this plan will force you to choose between sharing the road with cars and heavy vehicles, or sharing it with pedestrians. It is hard to see this as anything other than a poor outcome.
- To that end, the Forum will be advocating for a far more detailed active travel network plan, more in line with the plan that was featured in the original draft concept plan from 2014, as shown on the right.
- It might be a bit difficult to see, but one key benefit of this plan is that it featured a significant length of “Copenhagen style” segregated bikeways, as illustrated in this slide.

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- These cycleways were separated from both vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and were proposed to provide direct access from the surrounding suburbs directly into the heart of the group centre, rather than meandering lazily around the edge as many of Canberra's other bike paths are known to do.
- This is arguably one aspect that if done correctly, could significantly minimise the conflict between pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, producing a much safer and convenient outcome for everyone.

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- The other issue relating to transport is of course the matter of parking – where to put it, and how to ensure it is convenient without becoming the overwhelming design feature of the group centre, as graphically illustrated in this slide, featuring a photo of how not to do it.
- The usual approach of providing parking at shopping centres is very primitive – you build an enclosed concrete box filled with shops, and you pave around it with as much bitumen as you can fit.
- Canberra is filled with examples of shopping centres that take this lazy approach to delivering the required supply of parking.
- Not only is this approach incredibly wasteful – it sterilises the area and precludes the use of the land for sorely needed shops and facilities – it is also incredibly inconvenient, as it increases the walking distance between where you park and the shops you are trying to access and is unsheltered from the harsh elements.
- With larger centres like the Molonglo Group Centre, the spatial requirements of surface parking become enormous. You lose valuable land that could be utilised for parks and other public facilities.

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- There is, unfortunately, nothing in the current concept plan that would prevent this outcome from occurring here in Molonglo.
- The relevant planning provisions, as shown on the left, barely touch on how and where parking is to be delivered, and leave the door open for land next to the river corridor to be flattened and paved, leaving isolated buildings standing like tombstones in a graveyard of asphalt.
- The 2014 draft concept plan once again offers us a more compelling alternative, with specific planning requirements to ensure that sufficient parking is provided and is concentrated in shared and publicly accessible facilities within close walking distance of key destinations.
- It also encourages the sensitive use of the natural topography to provide parking underneath buildings, with the street sleaved with active retail uses.
- All in all, the 2014 plan provides a compelling alternative vision for managing the significant transport demands of the group centre without completely destroying what promises to make it a place worth spending time in.
- We will therefore be advocating for these aspects of the plan to be reintroduced in the concept plan to ensure delivery of a safe and accessible community destination.
- And now, on to the other key issue which has caused us a bit of worry – which involves the provision of public open recreation space.

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- Perhaps unsurprisingly, the delivery of public open space is an issue that is frequently raised with the Forum. Residents are keen to ensure that people who grow up in the district have access to local parks and recreation spaces that meet the needs of the diverse and growing Molonglo Valley community.

- We know how important local, green, and accessible recreational spaces are for the community.
- The Molonglo Valley is forecast to have less than one-third of the neighbourhood and urban open space provided to other parts of Canberra, with 2.4 hectares per 1000 residents in Molonglo compared to the Canberra average of 8.6 hectares per 1000 residents. It is important that what land we do have is used efficiently.
- We are therefore quite concerned about the details of the proposed high school/college at the Molonglo Group Centre that have emerged with this Technical Amendment.
- As shown here, this latest plan reserves 10 hectares of land for the high school/college. This is almost double the amount of land set aside in the draft concept plan released in December last year (5.7 hectares), and more than eleven times the amount dedicated in the 2014 concept plan (0.9 hectares). It is unclear whether the floorspace requirements of the college have changed during this time.
- This growth of the high school/college site has unfortunately come at the expense of publicly accessible open recreation space, which is in both short supply and high demand in the Molonglo Valley. As residential densities are expected to be highest in and around the group centre, this nearby open space is likely to be even more desirable.
- We have sought a meeting with Minister for Education Yvette Berry and representatives from the Education Directorate to discuss alternative ways of retaining the required floorspace of the proposed high school and college without negatively impacting the amount of open recreation green space at the Molonglo Group Centre.

- Unfortunately, our efforts at contacting the Directorate about this issue have not yielded a particularly satisfactory response. Effectively, we have been told to go jump.

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- We believe there is an opportunity at the Molonglo Group Centre to have a school/college building with a narrower footprint and shared community facilities on the ground floor, such as a theatre, gymnasium, dance and flexible arts spaces.
- This approach would provide genuine placemaking opportunities to create an integrated school and group centre precinct that promotes a shared sense of community.

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- Unfortunately, if Canberra's other school sites are any indication, there is a significant risk that the recreation space provided at the college will be surrounded by tall black metal fencing and locked away from the community outside of school hours.
- I don't know about you, but that seems like a pretty raw deal for current and future residents of Molonglo.
- Despite our lack of success to date, we will continue to advocate for an outcome that balances the college's operational requirements with the recreation and community facility needs of the wider Molonglo Valley community.
- All right, and that largely wraps up that section of the presentation.

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- A reminder that you can view these documents and provide your feedback until Friday 6 May, by going to planning.act.gov.au/planning-our-city/territory-plan/current_technical_variations

- All right, and with that, do we have any questions either in the room or online?

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<QUESTIONS>

- Alrighty, so now I wanted to give a big thank you to all those involved in the Molonglo Valley Multicultural Day.

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- This event, held on the afternoon of Sunday 27 March at Stromlo Forest Park, was the inaugural event of the Forum.
- This event, delivered in partnership with Woden Community Services, was about building connections and celebrating the diverse cultures and community of the Molonglo Valley.
- The event would not be possible without our sponsors, so a big thanks goes to the Suburban Land Agency and Capital Estate Developments for their generous support.

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- A huge thank you also to all the vendors, suppliers and performers who added a special flavour to the day's festivities, and thank you also to the incredible volunteers who helped us make this day happen.
- And finally, thank you to all those who registered, came along, gave a gold coin donation to support our local schools, and joined in this wonderful celebration of cultures and communities.

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- As seen from these photos, it was an absolutely an absolutely sensational time, and we are incredibly pleased with how it all worked out.

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- We ended up with over 1,000 registrations and raised over \$1,000 dollars which has been donated to the Charles Weston and Evelyn Scott Schools.
- We very much look forward to doing this event again – perhaps not until the later part of next year.

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- And in upcoming news, next Monday from 7pm, the Forum will be joining the Weston Creek Community Council and the Tuggeranong Community Council in hosting an election Forum for the federal seat of Bean.
- We have secured almost all the local candidates, save for a couple of the usual suspects who claim to be far too busy to actually come and talk to the voters.
- The event will be held at the Weston Creek Community Centre near Cooleman Court, and will be Chaired by the Forum's own Monique Brouwer.
- The event will of course be streamed online and shared on our Facebook page, but if you are keen to get involved, please feel free to drop by on Monday evening and ask our local candidates the questions that matter to you.

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- All right, well I would now like to provide the opportunity for people to ask any further questions.

- <QUESTIONS>

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- All right, well thank you everyone who tuned in tonight.
- Our next meeting will be on 26 May 2022 at the Denman Prospect Community Centre.
- We hope to see you then, in whatever capacity that may be.
- Stay safe everyone, and have a good rest of your evening.