

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
Molonglo Valley Community Forum
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Monique Brouwer

Member
Molonglo Valley Community Forum
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Find us on Facebook [@mvcommunityforum](#)

Attachment A

**LABOR'S
PLAN FOR**
Molonglo



AUTHORISED BY MELISSA JAMES FOR ACT LABOR.



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