



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting on Thursday 9 November 2023, 18:30

**Chair:** Ryan Hemsley, Convenor

## Agenda Item

### Welcome and acknowledgement of country

Meeting opened 6:37pm

- 1) **Attendance:** See list, appendix C

**Apologies:** Barbara Bennet, Terry Bennet, Tom Adam, Naveen Mukkelli

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### Convenor's Report

- 2) Ryan Hemsley provided his report see appendix A.

**Moved:** Barry Lambert

**Seconded:** Hassan Riaz

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### Treasurer's Report

- 3) Hassan Riaz provided his report see appendix B

**Moved:** Peter Davie

**Seconded:** John Hutchison

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### Introduction of Executive Committee 2023

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Ryan Hemsley

Amardeep Singh

Karen Collins

Tom Adam

Sharyn Macrae

Monique Brouwer

Hassan Riaz

Naveen Mukkelli

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- 5) **End**

Meeting closed 6:46pm

# Appendix A – Convenor’s Report

One of the great privileges of being involved with the Molonglo Valley Community Forum has been the opportunity to meet with so many interested residents of our vibrant, growing district. The conversations I have with people in this room, over at the Charles Weston School and out at Whitlam, are a constant reminder that the Molonglo Valley’s greatest asset is the people who live here, who work here, and who volunteer here.

## The Year in Review

Over the past twelve months, we have watched the Koko Molonglo Centre rise out of the ground. After years of waiting, residents of Coombs and Wright finally have a supermarket within walking distance of their homes. This is an excellent, if long overdue outcome for Molonglo’s oldest suburbs. The next stage of the project will involve the construction of an ALDI, with completion due mid-2024.

In January, we learned that the original owner of the Coombs Shops had passed away. While we remain hopeful that this site may one day fall into the hands of someone who can deliver on the original vision of this space as a lively community hub, the situation remains suboptimal and is not one we ever want to see repeated.

In February, after another long wait, the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn was announced as the successful tenderer of the North Wright school site. Over the course of several Forum meetings, we have watched as the design for this P-12 school evolved, with a view to have operations commence in term one of 2026.

Sadly, not everything has moved as quickly. When I stood here twelve months ago and gave my 2022 Convenor’s Report, I did not think that we would still be awaiting the first sod turning on the Molonglo River Bridge. They say the deadline for completion is still December 2025, but at the current rate of progress, I will believe it when I see it.

On the issue of major projects, this year has seen the Forum advocate strongly for the reclassification of the future Molonglo Group Centre to “Town Centre” status, in response to a larger than expected final population figure for our district. This issue has received significant coverage and traction in the media.

A special thanks goes to Ed Cocks MLA, who has picked up this issue and is working to ensure the Molonglo Valley will have all the necessary shops, services and facilities needed by current and future residents of our growing district. We await the tabling of his petition in the ACT Legislative Assembly with interest.

## The Year(s) Ahead

As you may recall from our public meeting in August, the Forum Committee has been grappling with its participation in the current ACT community council model. It has become clear that the model is overly reliant on the limited time and resources of volunteers and lacks sufficient buy in from the ACT Government to be a genuine and effective means of community engagement.

The Forum was faced with a choice – continue to accept the grant funding from the ACT Government and hope that things will change or sever the gordian knot and chart a

new course. This was not a decision that could be taken lightly.

In August, the Forum sent a letter to the Chief Minister Andrew Barr, advising that we had decided to not renew our community council grant funding agreement under the current arrangements. Instead, we will continue to provide a voice for the Molonglo Valley as an incorporated association, supported by membership fees and community donations.

In response to our letter, the ACT Government has provided a modified community council grant funding agreement. The most significant change is the reduced number of public meetings that are required to be held each year, down from nine to four, plus two other activities to drive increased community participation.

While we appreciate the intent of these changes, the fact remains that the administrative burden on unpaid volunteers remains unchanged. There is nothing in the modified arrangements that will fix the root cause of the problems we have outlined. It is therefore not an arrangement that we can accept at this stage.

The 2024 Forum committee will be meeting with representatives from the Chief Minister's Directorate soon to discuss alternative paths forward. We want to ensure residents of the Molonglo Valley are provided with opportunities to engage with elected officials and bureaucrats about the future direction of our district. That is the decision we made when the Molonglo Valley Community Forum was formed back in 2021, and that is what we will continue to provide the community going forward, as we head into an ACT Election year in 2024.

## Appendix B – Treasurer’s Report

Molonglo Valley Community Forum is in a sound financial position with a net surplus of \$6,741. The financial statements are reviewed under the Association Incorporation Act 1991. Our primary income source is government grants, including community council grants of \$12,000.

In terms of expenses, we have some regular expenses such as a few subscriptions, insurance, meetings and other expenses. We also bought some IT equipment to improve the streaming of our monthly meetings.

The liquidity of MVCF is also good and we have enough cash to cover our liabilities.

## Financial Statements

Molonglo Valley Community Forum			Molonglo Valley Community Forum	
Statement of Financial Performance			Statement of Financial Position	
For the period 1 July 23 to 30 June 23			As at 30 June 23	
<b>Income</b>			<b>Current Assets</b>	
Grants - ACT Govt	12,821		Cash at Bank	13,242
Grants - other	2,000		<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>13,242</b>
Sponsorship	-			
Donations received	-		<b>Non Current Assets</b>	-
Interest	22		<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>13,242</b>
Sundry income	-			
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>14,843</i>			
			<b>Current Liabilities</b>	-
			<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>	-
			<b>Total Liabilities</b>	-
<b>Expenses</b>				
Advertising	-		<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>13,242</b>
Assets Purchased <\$5k	1,249			
Community Events	2,000		<b>Equity</b>	
Computer expenses	424		Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)	6,741
Donations Paid	-		Reserves	6,501
Equipment hire	-		<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>13,242</b>
Fees & Permits	-			
Insurance	2,408			
Legal fees	-			
Meeting expenses	2,020			
Printing & stationery	-			
Sundry expenses	-			
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>8,101</i>			
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>6,741</b>			



**Reviewer's Report  
Small Associations**

*Associations Incorporation Act 1991*

The reviewer can be any person who is not an officer of the association or have prepared or assisted with the preparation of the accounts. They do not need to hold any qualifications.

I, Rochelle Di Cristo

have reviewed the accounts of

Molonglo Valley Community Council Inc

and confirm that, on the basis of the review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe the accounting records are misleading and that they give a true and fair account of –

- (a) the income and expenditure of the association during the financial year under review; and
- (b) the assets and liabilities of the association at the end of that financial year; and
- (c) any mortgages, charges or other securities of any description affecting any property of the association at the end of that financial year; and
- (d) for each trust of which the association was the trustee during a period in that financial year, being part or all of that financial year –
  - (i) the income and expenditure of the trust during that period;
  - (ii) the assets and liabilities of the trust at the end of that period;
  - (iii) any mortgages, charges or other securities of any description affecting any of the property of the trust during that period; and
- (e) any prescribed matters.

Signed: R Di Cristo CA 391844

Date: 5 November 2023 Phone: 0417 893 276

## Appendix C – Attendance List

Manish	Raj
Jacob	Traeger
Monique	Brouwer
Terri	Guirguis
Peter	Davie
Karen	Collins
Ryan	Hemsley
John	Hutchison
Alison	Hutchison
Barry Finlayson	Lambert
Sharyn	Macrae
Hassan	Riaz
Amardeep	Singh