



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Redirected to: Chief Minister

Reference: Molonglo Town Centre - Jobs

Hearing: 24/07/2026

In relation to: Molonglo Town Centre - Jobs

Question received: 29/07/2026

Answer Due: 10/08/2026

Minister

The Molonglo Town Centre master plan describes the area as the commercial heart of a district and refers to local jobs and employment opportunities.

1. What is the Government's quantified employment target for the completed town centre?
 - a. how many jobs is the Government planning for by 2035, 2045 and at full development?
 - b. how many ACT public service jobs is the government planning to locate in the Molonglo Town Centre?
2. What minimum amount of retail, office, health, service-trades and other commercial floorspace will be protected in the planning controls?
3. Is there a jobs-to-residents or jobs-to-dwellings target to ensure Molonglo does not become another dormitory district where most residents must travel elsewhere for work?

Thank you

ANDREW BARR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The ACT Government has not adopted a quantified employment target for the Molonglo Town Centre, nor has it established employment targets for 2035, 2045 or full development.

The National Capital Plan identifies Molonglo as a Town Centre and the ACT planning framework envisages the centre developing as the principal commercial, employment, community and service hub for the Molonglo Valley district. Consistent with the ACT Planning Strategy and Molonglo Valley District Strategy, the centre is intended to support employment opportunities closer to where people live and improve access to services and facilities within the district.

Accordingly, while the Government expects the Molonglo Town Centre to accommodate a substantial share of future employment growth within the district, no quantified employment targets have been adopted for Molonglo or any other town centre in the ACT

- a. The City and Environment Directorate (CED) anticipates that employment in the Molonglo Valley District could increase from approximately 1,100 jobs currently to around 9,900 jobs by 2050. The Molonglo Town Centre is the district's primary future employment node.
- b. The ACT Government has not established a target for the number of ACT Public Service jobs to be located in the Molonglo Town Centre.

Decisions regarding the location of ACT Government workplaces are made over time having regard to service delivery requirements, workforce needs, accessibility, value for money, accommodation availability and broader strategic planning considerations.

As Molonglo Valley continues to grow, the Government will consider opportunities to locate government services and facilities within the district where this supports service delivery outcomes and community needs.

2. The Territory Plan does not prescribe minimum floorspace requirements for particular land use categories within the Molonglo Town Centre.

Instead, planning controls are designed to support the intended role of the centre as the principal activity centre for the Molonglo Valley district and to provide capacity for a broad mix of employment-generating, commercial, retail, community and residential uses.

The CED anticipates demand for approximately 156,000 square metres of additional employment floorspace across Molonglo Valley by 2051 and identifies that the planned hierarchy of one town centre, one group centre and local centres is appropriate to support projected population and employment growth. Development of these centres will be in line with current market trends for modern centres and will be designed to reflect how residents access shops and services today and into the future.

The CED recommends protecting employment-generating land within town and group centres and ensuring sufficient capacity for future commercial, office, service-trades and community uses. Future planning and development of the Molonglo Town Centre will continue to be guided by these strategic objectives.

3. The ACT Government has not adopted a jobs-to-residents or jobs-to-dwellings ratio for either the Molonglo Valley District or the Molonglo Town Centre.

Rather than relying on a numerical ratio, ACT planning policy seeks to create complete and connected communities by providing housing, employment opportunities, services, recreation and community infrastructure within and close to where people live.

A key component of this approach is the planned development of the Molonglo Town Centre as the district's primary activity and employment centre, supported by a wider hierarchy of centres across the district.

Planning policies seek to make sure that the planned Molonglo centre hierarchy is fit for purpose and identifies the Molonglo Town Centre as a major future employment node capable of supporting substantial growth in employment, retail and commercial activity as the district matures.

While no jobs-to-residents target exists, Government planning seeks to ensure that sufficient land and development capacity are available to support employment growth within the district over time.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature: 

Date: **11.8.26**

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA