

2021

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**ACT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OF
8 OCTOBER 2021 – Molonglo Group Centre and Surrounds**

**Presented by
Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning and Land Management
December 2021**

Introduction

On 8 October 2021 the ACT Legislative Assembly passed a resolution in relation to the planning and timing of land release for the Molonglo Group Centre and surrounds.

Resolution

The resolution was confirmed in correspondence from the Assembly Speaker on 15 October 2021. The resolution provided as follows:

That this Assembly:

1) *Notes that:*

- a) the Molonglo Valley is currently experiencing significant residential growth, with a forecast population of nearly 35 000 by the end of this decade;*
- b) Molonglo Valley residents currently rely on services provided in Weston Creek*
- c) at the previous election, ACT Labor promised to “fast track” the delivery of the Molonglo Valley commercial centre, which will contain facilities such as:
 - i. a police station;*
 - ii. a year 11-12 College;*
 - iii. a library*
 - iv. a community precinct;*
 - v. emergency services;*
 - vi. health facilities; and*
 - vii. supermarkets, retail and commercial space;**
- d) to deliver on this promise, the ACT Government will release land in accordance with the Indicative Land Release Program by 2023-2024;*
- e) consultation for the development of the Molonglo commercial centre will start from the end of 2021 and continue into 2022; and*
- f) On 11 June 2021, the National Capital Design Review Panel provided a peer review of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate’s work for the Molonglo Group Centre and provided valuable input on areas of planning improvement; and*

2) *Calls on the ACT Government to:*

- a) Table the Molonglo Group Centre and Surrounds planning in full by the last sitting day in December, to allow elected members and the wider community sufficient time to analyse this initial work; and*
 - b) Update the Assembly by the last sitting day in December of when development of the Molonglo Commercial Centre is intended and outline plans for community consultation”.*
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ACT Government Response to Assembly Resolution on Molonglo Group Centre and Surrounds

Resolution 2 (a)

That this Assembly calls on the ACT Government to table the Molonglo Group Centre and Surrounds planning in full by the last sitting day in December, to allow elected members and the wider community sufficient time to analyse this initial work.

Response: Agreed

The Government agrees to table the Molonglo Group Centre and Surrounds Draft Concept Plan (the Draft Concept Plan) by the last sitting day in December.

The Draft Concept Plan provides a summary of the background and context that has informed the planning, analysis that has led to the planning which is presented through various layers such as land use, community facilities, urban design and built form and a range of other relevant matters. A final section on proposed implementation is also included to indicate next steps.

The Draft Concept Plan is built on a range of investigations and analysis that is necessary as part of planning for greenfield areas and to inform the best planning outcome for the Molonglo Group Centre.

Resolution 2 (b)

That this Assembly calls on the ACT Government to update the Assembly by the last sitting day in December of when development of the Molonglo Commercial Centre is intended and outline plans for community consultation.

Response: Agreed

The Government agrees and provides the following in response.

To meet the needs of a growing and changing community, development of the Molonglo Group Centre and surrounds will be staged over several years, so that housing, services and facilities are provided to support the growing population.

The land release for the Molonglo Group Centre is proposed for 2023-24 in the current Indicative Land Release Program. Work will continue in the intervening period to prepare for that delivery and for the Group Centre to provide a great place for the community. This work includes ongoing infrastructure, land preparation and planning work.

The Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will engage with the Molonglo Valley Community Council over the coming months on the Draft Concept Plan and proposed approaches to ongoing consultation.

The steps to finalise the Draft Concept Plan and uplift provisions to the Territory Plan involves a statutory process that I propose could occur early in 2022. This will include community consultation.

That statutory process will result in a Precinct Code in the Territory Plan, and this will set the guidance for estate development planning.

Estate Development Plans are also required to consider the relevant provisions of the Territory Plan and will be assessed through a statutory process. Following approval and satisfaction of relevant matters, land sales and construction could proceed.