



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Economics,
Industry and Recreation

Submission Cover Sheet

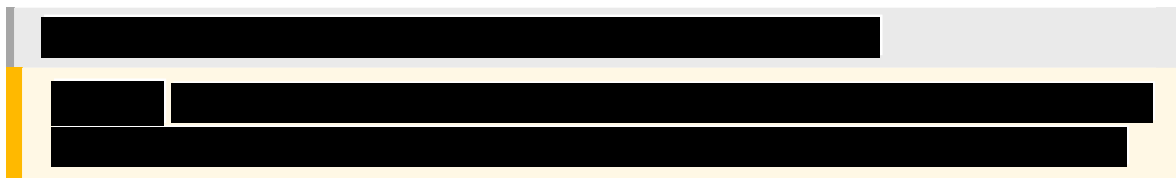
Inquiry into barriers and opportunities for participation in community sports in the ACT

Submission number: 154

Submitter: Molonglo Juggernauts Football Club

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From: [rach.ross](#)
To: [LA Committee - Economics](#)
Subject: Fw: For Action: Molonglo Juggernauts FC Key Issues
Date: Wednesday, 11 February 2026 10:06:53 PM



Good evening, LA,

My name is Rach Ross, and I am the newly appointed Molonglo Juggernauts President for 2026. I have been a part of the Molonglo Juggernauts committee for 6+ years and in that time, I have seen the club face many challenges and after speaking with other presidents across different sporting codes and doing some research, I wish to submit a formal submission requesting LA Committee's action in addressing my concerns.

Purpose

This submission outlines critical infrastructure, cost and maintenance issues arising from the shortage of community playing fields in the Molonglo Valley. It highlights the impacts on local sporting clubs and calls for urgent government action to address unmet commitments, inequitable cost structures and asset maintenance failures.

Background

The Molonglo Valley is one of the fastest-growing regions in the ACT. Despite this rapid growth, the provision of community sporting infrastructure has not kept pace with demand.

Molonglo Juggernauts Football Club, Wildcats Football Club and Weston Creek Cricket Club are currently reliant on Stirling Enclosed as their shared home ground. While historically serviceable, the facility is ageing and increasingly unable to meet current and future demand.

In 2012, discussions were held regarding the expansion of district-level playing fields at Stromlo, including:

- One synthetic field.
- Four AFL fields.
- Six soccer fields.

These facilities have not been delivered and no further action has been taken from stage 1. As a result, Molonglo remains significantly under-serviced relative to population growth and projected future demand. The updated 2016 Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan anticipates only four basic sports units plus an enclosed oval which is a significant revision

on the proposal back in 2012.

Demand Pressures and Participation

Current usage of Stirling Enclosed highlights the unsustainable pressure on existing infrastructure:

- Molonglo Juggernauts FC fields three senior AFL teams.
- Wildcats FC fields over 20 junior teams.
- Weston Creek Cricket Club uses the ground throughout the cricket season.

Sharing a single enclosed field across multiple codes severely restricts training access, increases scheduling conflicts during peak seasons and accelerates surface degradation. These constraints directly limit participation growth and place additional strain on volunteers and club administrators. With Molonglo projected to reach a population of approximately 79,000 residents by 2065, existing sportsground provision is insufficient to meet current needs, let alone future demand across all sporting codes.

Inequitable Cost of Enclosed Field Hire

The current fee structure for Stirling Enclosed imposes a disproportionate financial burden on community clubs.

Hire costs are as follows:

- Training: \$79.10 (enclosed) vs \$28.95 (standard field)
- Game day: \$108.00 (enclosed) vs \$57.85 (standard field)

This represents an additional \$50.15 per session purely due to the facility being enclosed. For Molonglo Juggernauts FC, this equates to approximately \$9,000 per year, compared with around \$3,000 paid by clubs using standard sportsgrounds. Molonglo Juggernauts FC don't have an alternative due to sportsgrounds capacity restrictions. As a small, volunteer-run club with limited sponsorship, these costs are unsustainable and undermine affordability, participation and long-term club viability.

Failure to Maintain Permanent Fixed Assets

In 2023, Molonglo Juggernauts FC, Wildcats FC and Weston Creek Cricket Club were successful in securing grant funding to install a permanent fixed scoreboard at Stirling Enclosed.

In 2024, the scoreboard ceased functioning and has remained inoperable since. Despite repeated attempts to escalate the issue through relevant channels, including direct

contact with ACT Sportsgrounds facility manager, operation manager, director, and no remedial action has been taken and correspondence has gone unanswered.

Regardless of the original funding source, the scoreboard is a permanent fixed asset located on ACT Government land. Responsibility for maintenance and repair therefore rests with the ACT Government. The failure to address this issue for over two years is unacceptable and requires immediate action ahead of the 2026 season.

Broader Community Impacts

The lack of adequate and accessible sporting infrastructure in Molonglo has far-reaching consequences, including:

- Reduced opportunities for physical activity and mental wellbeing.
- Limited development pathways for juniors, seniors, and volunteers.
- Barriers to club growth and long-term sustainability.
- Weakened neighbourhood identity and community connection.
- Missed opportunities to foster social cohesion in a rapidly growing region.

Community sporting clubs play a critical role in preventative health, youth engagement and social inclusion. Continued underinvestment in facilities undermines these outcomes.

Request Government Action

Molonglo Juggernauts Football Club calls on the LA Committee to:

1. Revisit and deliver additional district-level playing fields in the Molonglo/Stromlo region, consistent with commitments discussed in 2012.
2. Review enclosed field hire costs to ensure community clubs are not unfairly penalised.
3. Urgently repair or replace the non-functional scoreboard at Stirling Enclosed.
4. Undertake a comprehensive sportsground capacity assessment aligned with Molonglo's projected population growth.

Conclusion

Molonglo's rapid growth demands timely and strategic investment in community sporting infrastructure. Without adequate, affordable, and well-maintained facilities, participation, wellbeing and community cohesion will continue to suffer. The LA Committee is urged to

act decisively to address long-standing gaps and ensure Molonglo residents have equitable access to community sporting opportunities now and into the future.

Look forward to seeing a response and swift action to address the issues raised above.

Rach Ross

Club President

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