



**Mr Andrew Barr MLA**

Chief Minister  
Treasurer  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
GPO Box 1020  
Canberra, ACT 2601

2 May 2023

Dear Chief Minister

### **ACT Government Budget Submission 2023-2024**

The Molonglo Valley Community Forum (MVCF) has prepared the following budget submission for your consideration for the 2022-2023 ACT Government Budget.

The MVCF was established by residents in 2021 to preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Molonglo Valley and its community. From July 2021, the MVCF became an ACT community council.

The MVCF has identified three key priority areas: community, liveability and accessibility, with planning as a cross-cutting theme. Our priorities support the ACT Wellbeing Framework and provide a mechanism for Government to embed the wellbeing considerations of the Molonglo Valley community.

This budget submission outlines some of the identified needs and requirements for services in the Molonglo Valley. The MVCF requests funding for:

1. Interim Servicing Plan for the Molonglo Valley
2. Dedicated funding with clear outcomes for community services, programming, and development in the Molonglo Valley
3. Funding commitment for the Holborow Avenue extension
4. ACT Government to fund the Stromlo District Playing Fields Business Case
5. Molonglo Valley Arts – pop-up initiative
6. Pollutant traps for Wyndham Avenue pond

Yours sincerely,

**Ryan Hemsley**

Convenor  
Molonglo Valley Community  
Forum

[info@mvcommunityforum.org.au](mailto:info@mvcommunityforum.org.au)

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# **Molonglo Valley Community Forum ACT Government Budget Submission 2023-24**

This budget submission outlines some of the identified needs and requirements for services in the Molonglo Valley. The MVCF requests funding for:

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## **1. Interim Servicing Plan for the Molonglo Valley**

As the population and geographic footprint of the Molonglo Valley continues to grow, the provision of services and commercial and community infrastructure has been delayed.

The Molonglo Group Centre has been significantly delayed meaning that residents and the community have limited services in the region, and the population continues to grow.

The services that have been delayed include:

- Molonglo Valley college
- additional high school
- emergency services centre
- police station
- library
- public transport interchange
- service trades area
- additional primary school
- sports and recreation centre
- community facilities
- parks and urban plazas
- retail and shops
- employment opportunities and offices

The MVCF seeks to collaborate with the Chief Minister's Office in developing a 10-year Interim Servicing Plan for the Molonglo Valley.

This cross-directorate document would detail the delivery of services to the Molonglo Valley. Ensuring that families and communities moving into the area or currently living here have clear pathways and accessible services for now and the next ten years.

For example, the document would detail pathways for schooling, accessing health services, public transport plans, and policing and safety for the next 10 years as the region grows.

This document would provide an overview of how residents, communities and businesses' needs are being met across the 12 domains of the ACT Wellbeing Framework.

The MVCF is committed to ensuring residents, communities and businesses in the Molonglo Valley have a plan for the future and are keen to work with the Chief Minister's Office in delivering the Interim Servicing Plan for the Molonglo Valley.

## **2. Dedicated funding with clear outcomes for community services, programming, and development in the Molonglo Valley**

Community services and development strive to create an inclusive, safe and equitable community. The provision of services empowers people to meet their full potential and enables inclusive and strong communities. Community services and development relates to all of the 12 domains of the ACT Wellbeing Framework.

As a new district in Canberra, it is essential that community development funding be provided to ensure the community has an opportunity to develop social connections, a sense of belonging, supportive and strong relationships.

However, there is a lack of services, clarity and funding for the community in the Molonglo Valley. The MVCF would like to work with the Community Services Directorate and community organisations to establish a strategic plan for our growing community and district.

The Coombs Community Centre has remained largely unused since YWCA was successful in obtaining the tender. With no funding for the management and activation of the facility, it has not fulfilled the intention of creating a place for the community in Coombs and Wright. It needs recurrent funding to allow the YWCA to run programs and provide much need services in the Molonglo Valley.

There is also a lack of infrastructure and services for youth (adolescents) in the Molonglo Valley. We are asking for specific targeted funding for youth programming and services.

The MVCF asks for budget provisions for:

- dedicated recurrent funding for the Coombs Community Centre
- dedicated recurrent funding for Molonglo Valley community development with clear outcomes
- recurrent funding to increase as Molonglo Valley grows
- dedicated youth funding for programming and services

### **3. Funding commitment for the Holborow Avenue extension**

The feasibility study for the extension of Holborow Avenue to the Tuggeranong Parkway was finalised in early 2021.<sup>1</sup> When complete, this project will provide a much-needed secondary access road in and out of the Molonglo Valley.

The MVCF has been concerned at how long it has taken to deliver the first high-level bridge across the Molonglo River.<sup>2</sup> To avoid a repeat of this issue, we ask that the ACT Government fund the design work required to deliver the full Holborow Avenue extension before the end of this decade.

### **4. ACT Government to fund the Stromlo District Playing Fields Business Case**

In the 2020 budget<sup>3</sup> the ACT Government agreed to fund the first stage of construction of new district playing fields at Stromlo Forest Park (two playing fields and lighting). At this stage, the land is still vacant, with no works commencing.

The MVCF asks the ACT Government to progress the detailed design of the Stromlo Forest Park District Playing Fields to ensure residents of the Molonglo Valley are provided with sufficient recreational facilities to match the growing population.

### **5. Molonglo Valley Arts**

As a growing multicultural community, there is a need for community arts and cultural development practices within the Molonglo Valley. Currently, there is not a dedicated community arts and culture service operating within the Molonglo Valley. We propose to replicate the successful Woden Arts and Gungahlin Arts programs which leverage off the existing Tuggeranong Arts and Belco Arts centres.

The ACT Wellbeing Framework states that "arts and culture have the ability to connect people with ideas, emotions and stories." Community arts and culture programs support the ACT Wellbeing domains of "Social Connection" and "Identifying and Belonging" by bringing communities together to express, connect, support and engage with each other.

Arts centres foster and cultivate a vibrant community that values, explores and engages with the arts and expresses artistic interests and needs with confidence and purpose. The MVCF requests that the ACT Government provide recurrent funding to establish a Molonglo Valley Arts.

The Woden and Gungahlin Pop Ups Initiative from the ACT Government support creativity in suburban areas of Canberra and creates opportunities for community

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<sup>1</sup> *Molonglo East West Arterial Feasibility Study - Strategic Design* (SMEC, March 2021)

<sup>2</sup> <https://mvcommunityforum.org.au/media-release-disappointed-by-molonglo-bridge-delays/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/1646573/LAB049C.pdf](https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1646573/LAB049C.pdf)

connection and storytelling through the arts in Canberra's regions. The pop-ups program was established in 2019 and is co-delivered by Belco Arts (Gungahlin Arts) and Tuggeranong Arts Centre (Woden Arts) and continue to receive funding and support<sup>4</sup>.

We propose that the successful program is extended to Molonglo Valley. With our unique, vibrant, and diverse community, the Molonglo Valley needs local region activation of arts with the community.

<b>Estimated Expenses</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>
<b>Program Officer</b>	1 x Molonglo Arts Program Officer FTE 38 hrs p/w @ \$36.68	\$73,000
<b>Oncosts</b>	Excluding salary	\$30,000
<b>Recruitment</b>	Recruitment by centre	\$2,000
<b>Travel</b>	Allowance for travel	\$3,000
<b>Professional development/ Networking</b>	Development for Program Officer	\$1,000
<b>Equipment and technology</b>	Laptop, phone and other equipment as needed.	\$7,200
<b>Venue hire</b>	Within in the Molonglo Valley	\$3,000
<b>Marketing and Communication</b>	Marketing/ promo and documentation	\$8,000
<b>Program/artist fees</b>	To enable program delivery and the payment of artist fees	\$45,000
<b>Administration Fee</b>	For the Belco Arts or Tuggeranong Arts Centre to manage.	\$26,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$198,200</b>

## 6. Pollutant traps for Wyndham Avenue pond

At the MVCF's April 2023 public meeting, a representative from the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate identified the cost of constructing two pollutant traps at the Wyndham Avenue pond at \$1 million, or \$500,000 each.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.arts.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/1865914/statement-of-ambition-011021.pdf](https://www.arts.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1865914/statement-of-ambition-011021.pdf)

The MVCF believes this is a reasonable price to prevent the ongoing flow of rubbish and pollution into the Molonglo River Corridor. We ask that the ACT Government fund the necessary design and construction works to ensure these pollutant traps are delivered in 2023-24.