



Communication Link

Molonglo Valley District Planning Workshop

ACT Planning Review and Reform Project

7 June 2021



Introduction

The ACT Government is currently reviewing the ACT planning system. The ACT Planning Review and Reform Project is considering the introduction of district level planning to provide more planning guidance at a district level and allow for the distinctive character of each district to be reflected in the planning system.

The ACT Government has identified eight urban districts and a district planning workshop is being conducted in each of these districts.

Communication Link has been engaged by the ACT Government to facilitate these workshops and report to the Government on what was heard. This report summarises the key feedback gathered from the Molonglo Valley community

The Molonglo District Planning Workshop was held on Tuesday 1 June and was attended by 18 people. The workshop was also offered online with participation conducted through Zoom and an interactive collaboration platform called Mural. One person attended online.

Of the 18 people that attended, there was a broad range of ages represented with the most common age bracket represented being 30 – 39. In terms of suburbs represented, participants from Wright and Coombs greatly outnumbered those from Denman Prospect.

What we heard

The District Planning workshop gathered community feedback related to each of the themes identified in the ACT Planning Strategy 2018.

The most common areas of feedback provided by the community of Molonglo Valley are identified against these themes in the following sections.

Liveable




The following questions were asked about liveability:

- What suggestions do you have for how the type of housing and where it is located could be different in your District in the future?
- Are there changes needed to recreational areas, outdoor public spaces and/or community facilities to cater for future needs of people in your District? Where should this occur?
- What community facilities (including schools) are needed to cater for the future needs of the people in your District? Where could they be located?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 1 overleaf.



Table 1. Community suggestions on future planning for a liveable district

 <p>Community assets and infrastructure</p> <p>Include community assets and infrastructure e.g schools and religious facilities</p>	 <p>Celebrating the natural environment</p> <p>Fostering native trees, animals, biodiversity and the river corridor</p>	 <p>Modern, efficient building design and planning</p> <p>Inclusion of energy efficient buildings, good building design, limited medium and high density residential buildings</p>
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Other reoccurring themes included:

- Requests for parks, sporting fields and playgrounds.
- Feedback that Molonglo Valley needs more shops and a town centre.

Diverse

The following questions were asked about being diverse:

- How might future changes impact the commercial or retail areas within your District? What changes might impact on the town centre, group centres and local centres?
- Are there places that are considered significant to the community in your District that should be considered differently in the future? Where are they located?
- What characteristics and features are unique to your District that should be considered when planning the future?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. Community suggestions on future planning for a diverse district

 <p>Group centre connected to community</p> <p>Build a group centre to connect to community facilities.</p>	 <p>Local employment</p> <p>Create a town centre that provides employment for locals such as an innovation hub or attracting government agencies.</p>	 <p>Diversity of community facilities</p> <p>Build community facilities that reflect the multicultural community from places of worship to diverse social activities</p>
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Other reoccurring themes included:

- Feedback seeking expediency in building local commercial centres.

Accessible




The following questions were asked about accessibility:



- What areas in your District should be considered to improve peoples' ability to walk and cycle?
- What are the long-term travel needs for public transport and cars for your District?
- Are there road connections to other ACT districts or regional NSW that should be considered in your District?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3. Community suggestions on future planning for a liveable district

 <p>Buses</p> <p>Suggestions for improvements to bus services such as dedicated bus lanes and route suggestions.</p>	 <p>Roads</p> <p>Suggestions for new or improving existing roads within the Molonglo Valley.</p>	 <p>Cycle paths</p> <p>Improving local cycle paths, such as creating connections to the river corridor, to group centres and the city centre.</p>
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Other reoccurring themes included:

- Future proofing for light rail.

Compact and efficient




The following questions were asked about a compact and efficient city:

- When considering the additional residents that will live in your District in the future, what aspects of your District need to be considered to make sure it is a pleasant place to live?
- What areas should be priorities for open spaces and public places in your District?
- What views from outdoor public places are special in your District and should be considered in future planning?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 4.



Table 4. Community suggestions on future planning for a compact and efficient district

 <p>Housing types</p> <p>Suggestions for residential housing included; spreading out medium and high-density housing; accommodating home gardens; providing choice of housing types; and limiting high-density developments in Wright and Coombs.</p>	 <p>Green space and nature reserve</p> <p>Preferences for green spaces, playgrounds and maintaining and accommodating the existing nature reserve.</p>	 <p>Places for young people</p> <p>Suggestions for parks, playgrounds and more schools to accommodate a growing younger population.</p>
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Sustainable and resilient

The following questions were asked about sustainability and resilience:

- Consider the following areas in your District and describe what elements should be prioritised as these areas change in the future:
 - Investigation areas for potential future suburbs
 - Government land identified for sale and private development
 - Urban intensification areas within existing suburbs
 - Major sites in important areas identified for development by the government.

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 5.

Table 5. Community suggestions on future planning for a sustainable and resilient district

 <p>Minimise density</p> <p>Plan for low density housing, particularly near the nature reserves and open areas</p>	 <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Fostering biodiversity, including buffers around nature reserves</p>	 <p>Community facilities</p> <p>Invest in community facilities within the district to minimise need to travel across Canberra</p>	 <p>Energy Efficient buildings</p> <p>Encourage energy efficient building including solar panels</p>
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Other reoccurring themes included:

- Protecting the arboretum by maintaining a buffer between it and surrounding development
- Plan to reduce reliance on car travel.



Next steps

The Molonglo Valley district planning workshop is one of eight workshops being held across Canberra during June 2020.

This report has been drafted based on a preliminary analysis of the data gathered from participants. An overarching consultation report will be prepared at the conclusion of all district planning workshops. Reporting back to the community on what was heard in the district planning workshops and how that input is informing proposed policy changes will occur later in 2021.



Figure 1. Community members from Molonglo Valley during the District Planning Workshop.