

Gungahlin and Mitchell Voter's Action (GAMVA) group

The purpose of GAMVA is:

To promote issues of importance to the Gungahlin and Mitchell region; by encouraging political parties to develop election policies that are responsive to the region's needs. GAMVA will actively support candidates who demonstrate sustainable commitment to the Gungahlin and Mitchell community.

The objective of the GAMVA group is:

To inform voters and make recommendations to the local community, in a manner which enables them to elect members of government that can demonstrate genuine and sustainable commitment in addressing the needs and issues of the Gungahlin and Mitchell region.

To achieve this objective, GAMVA undertakes to:

- ◆ promote issues of importance to the Gungahlin and Mitchell region.
- ◆ encouraging political parties to develop election policies that are responsive to the region's needs.
- ◆ actively support candidates who demonstrate sustainable commitment to the Gungahlin and Mitchell districts.
- ◆ act as a resource, by working with political parties and election candidates, to develop strategies and election policies that are in the best interests of the Gungahlin and Mitchell community.
- ◆ canvas and consult with the Gungahlin and Mitchell community, in an effort to identify the issues that are important to them.
- ◆ develop transparent and fair methods of collecting, measuring and reporting election related information to the Gungahlin and Mitchell community.
- ◆ provide information to the Gungahlin and Mitchell community in a way that is accurate, unbiased, understandable and presented in a manner voters can relate to.
- ◆ conduct meetings that will provide an open forum where political parties and election candidates can be made aware of issues identified as important to the Gungahlin and Mitchell community.
- ◆ provide a forum where political parties and election candidates can present information.

GAMVA structure and constitution:

GAMVA is a sub-committee of the GCC. Generally the group will operate using the GCC constitution, as the "fall-back" guide for items not expressly considered and amended by the group.

GAMVA membership qualifications

Membership of GAMVA shall be restricted to any person who supports the purpose and objective of the group.

Note: GAMVA will not discourage membership by younger members of the community. Persons under the age of 16 will require written agreement from their parent or caregiver (to join GAMVA).

Meeting procedure and quorum:

GAMVA meetings are open to any member of the community, however:

- (a) no item of business shall be transacted unless a quorum of members is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.
 - (b) any person (regardless of whether they are a GAMVA member or not) can be expelled from the meeting if that person refuses to comply with a provision of these rules, or acts in a disruptive and/or unreasonable manner.
- (1) Three members present in person (being members entitled to vote) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business at a GAMVA meeting. **Note: GCC Constitution 20) 3) states - A**



Gungahlin And Mitchell Voter's Action

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GAMVA is a working group constituted as a subcommittee of the Gungahlin Community Council Inc.

member of any sub-committee shall not vote on, or influence, any decision related to any contract or arrangement in which he or she has a vested interest, unless: a) details of the vested interest are made known to the committee; and b) the committee decides (by resolution) that no conflict of interest exists;

Membership of the GAMVA Management Committee:

GAMVA Office-Bearer positions are:

The Coordinator The Deputy Coordinator The Secretary The Treasurer

Other GAMVA members can be appointed to the Management Committee; by nomination and vote at any GAMVA meeting.



Duties of members of the Management Committee:

The GAMVA Coordinator shall: 1) arrange meeting venues and notifications; 2) prepare meeting agendas and arrange for distribution; 3) ensure that the sub-committee's functions are structured, cohesive and efficient; 4) represent GAMVA in public forums including the authorization of all media releases, representation and comments made on behalf of the GAMVA group.

Deputy Coordinator shall support the Coordinator in his or her duties and act in that capacity when the Coordinator is absent.

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of: 1) elections and appointments of Office-Bearers; 2) the names of members attending meetings of the group; 3) all proceedings at meetings of the group; 4) all correspondence or documents received or sent by, or relating to GAMVA business.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for 1) collecting and receiving all monies due to the group and the making all payments authorised by the group; 2) keeping correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the group; 3) the keeping of all receipts and financial statements as required by resolution or the Act; including all correspondence or documents received or sent by GAMVA, or relating to GAMVA business.

Note: All members of the Management Committee may delegate responsibilities to assistants or specialist-committees where this action is appropriate.

Public representation of the GAMVA group:

Only authorised persons may speak on behalf of the group. The following conditions are a requirement for persons representing the group:

- ◆ The person must give an undertaking that they will not stand as an election candidate (ACT or Federal) prior to, or during the ACT 2004 election
- ◆ The person must give an undertaking that they will not speak on behalf of; or represent any political party or candidate (ACT or Federal) prior to, or during the ACT 2004 election
- ◆ The person must give an undertaking that they will not hold an "Office Bearer" position in any political party (ACT or Federal) prior to, or during the ACT 2004 election
- ◆ Where appropriate, the person must clearly state that they are commenting on behalf of GAMVA and not on behalf of any political party or election candidate
- ◆ The person must endeavor to provide information to the public in a manner that is fair, truthful, accurate, understandable and reflecting the group's core purpose and objectives.

Clarification: Although there are many issues that are common to all ACT districts, GAMVA's particular focus is related to matters affecting the Gungahlin and Mitchell district; persons representing GAMVA should focus their comments to reflect the best interests of the Gungahlin and Mitchell community.

The elected Management Committee of GAMVA (elected at the group's establishment meeting 16th June 2004:

GAMVA Coordinator - Ian Ruecroft

Deputy Coordinator - Lisa Logue

Secretary (Acting) - Robert Rose

Treasurer (Acting) - Ian Ruecroft

GAMVA meetings and dates:

Generally GAMVA meetings will be held every 2nd and 4th Monday (until the ACT election is over). Meetings will commence at 7.30pm and all meetings will be held at the Gungahlin Raider's Club. Meeting dates are as follows:

28 June;	12 July (See note)	26 July;	9 August;
23 August;	13 September;	27 September	11 October 2004

It should be noted that the meeting 12th July can not be held at the Riders Club.

This meeting will be held at an alternative venue and will be dedicated to further development of the candidate assessment guide.

The GAMVA meeting 28th June decided that election candidates would not be encouraged to attend the GAMVA meeting 12th July.



Treatment of election candidates and political parties:

GAMVA will treat all election candidates and political parties fairly. The group is willing to provide information, in an effort to assist any political party and/ or election candidate, to develop election policies that are in the best interests of the Gungahlin and Mitchell community.

Assessment of election candidates and political parties:

GAMVA will work towards developing a "surveying, recording and comparison systems" in an effort to assess election candidates and political parties. This information will be used to compare candidate's sustainable commitment to the Gungahlin and Mitchell community; in an effort to focus the voting power of a district that is split over two electorates (Molongo and Ginninderra).

Issues for future consideration:

The following issues have been identified as possible matters that may need to be considered by GAMVA for incorporation into the organization's operations and guidelines. These matters are not considered to be crucial to the initial establishment of the group; and are documented for consideration purposes only.

Note: These items are not in order of importance or groupings of like tasks.

- a)** Setting priorities for the group and achieving worthwhile outcomes; **b)** Developing a list of (2004 election) issues for the Gungahlin and Mitchell district; **c)** Establishing fair and equitable ways of presenting information to voters; **d)** Engaging and assisting all interested political parties and candidates; **e)** Rating political parties and candidates in a fair and equitable manner; **f)** Providing information to the Gungahlin and Mitchell community; **g)** Designing and distributing marketing/ information materials; **h)** Maintaining the group's independence and influence;
- i)** Obtaining and expenditure of financial contributions and sponsorship; **j)** Scheduling activities to maximise the available resources;
- k)** Avoiding hijacking from political bodies or other interest groups; **l)** Conflicts of interests by members of the group; **m)** Avoiding conflict within the organisation; **n)** Avoiding conflict with other sectors of the ACT community; **o)** Engaging the Gungahlin and Mitchell community;
- p)** Providing worthwhile information to voters; **q)** GAMVA's objective after the 2004 election; **r)** Issues related to the group's financial capacity, members liability and avoiding compromising financial arrangements.

Draft of meeting date and proposed meeting business:

12 th July– Review assessment doc. (no candidates invited)	26 th July - Meet with party candidates ALP or Liberals
9 th Aug- Meet with party candidates – Liberals or ALP	23 rd Aug - Meet with party candidates Democrats and Greens
13 th Sept - Meet with party candidates Equality and other minor	27 th Sept – Review and confirm preferred candidates
11 th Oct Confirm mail out and election strategies	25 th Oct – Review outcomes and Plan 2008 strategies