

QPRC Response to BCA Questions on 2020-21 Capital Works Program

Summary of submission: Questions from the Braidwood Community Association regarding the capital works program

Questions	Staff Response	Staff recommendation
1. Why were the following projects not included in the 2020-21 budget?		
a) BWD – Pool Upgrade - \$1,000k	Funding has now been received for the Braidwood pool upgrade and this project will be added.	
b) BWD – Monkittee Bridge path - \$750k	Staff remain committed to seeking funding for the Monkittee Bridge path, however funding has not yet been allocated. The project will be added to the Capital Works program, noting that it is reliant on grant funding	Add Monkittee Bridge to Operational Plan, reliant on grant funding (carried over from 2019-20)
2. Have the following projects been rolled over from the 2019-20 budget with the same funding?		
a) BWD – Braidwood Saleyards upgrade	This funding is in addition to the \$40,000 listed in the 2019-20 Operational Plan, meaning \$80,000 will be available for upgrades at the Saleyards, based on the funding from 2019-20 being carried forward.	
b) BWD – Water Services Replacement	This is an ongoing project, with new funding from the water fund	
c) BWD – Araluen Rd – Braidwood – Drought relief	Works from 2019-20 were complete. Council has requested the same funding for 2020-21, however funding not yet received.	
d) BWD – Cooma Rd RRRP Jinglemoney Rd to O'Briens	This is funded from the Regional Roads Repair Program and will be allocated to the 2020-21 financial year	
3. These projects appear to be rolled over, but with a new budget		
a) BWD – office smart hub/cultural space - \$3,090k (\$250k)	The adopted Delivery Program includes \$3,090k in year 3 (2020-21) for this project, noting that \$3m of this is reliant on grant funding. The project is essentially progressing in two stages. Stage one focuses on the downstairs area and linking the library and customer service. Stage two is in its early stages and will look at returning the upstairs area into a cultural space for community use. The \$250k in the 2019-20 budget will be recommended to be carried forward to 2020-21 when Council considers its carryover report at its August 2020 meeting	
b) BWD – Cooma Rd/Krawaree Rd - \$324k (\$64k)	This is part of the road reseals, rehabilitation and resheeting program for 2020-21. These funds have not been rolled over, but is allocated from the block grant for 2020-21	
4. A number of projects relating to the Nerriga Rd development that have not been included in the 2020-21 budget. Also questioning why the prefix has changed from NRG (Nerriga) to Bwd (Braidwood)	Council considers a report in August each year for unspent funds largely relating to capital projects. If agreed by Council, these funds are carried forward to the relevant financial year. For instance, the Nerriga Rd works will be spread over a number of years, Council will vote whether to carry forward that funding in August 2020. The change of prefix was an oversight and will be amended.	

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5. Requesting further information on the Braidwood Recreation Ground Construction (\$250k) and Braidwood Recreation Ground Drainage channel (\$150k) projects	The construction project is linked to the extension of the sporting field and installation of irrigation. The drainage channel project will see the channel extended along the creek. Both projects will be funded from Section 94 payments from Dargues Gold Mine. Neither of these projects are related to the construction of a skate facility in Braidwood.	
6. Clarification sought on the basis for the following projects. If the intention is to relocate the Council Depot why so much is being spent on Security gates and repair to workshop? The wording for a proposal for a "Car Park Wallace St" may be misleading, as it is understood the initiative involves off-street parking. Could an explanation please be provided of what is envisaged and where?		
a) BWD – Mayfield Rd – Reedy Creek Bridge Replacement - \$1,334k	Council aims to upgrade/renew bridges across the local government area on a progressive basis. This project is funded 50/50 from the NSW Government's Fixing Country Bridge Program.	
b) BWD – Depot – Security gates and repair to workshop - \$150k	The security upgrades are due to existing security issues at the Braidwood Depot. The Depot is poorly secured and prone to theft. Any works undertaken as part of this project would be transferrable to the new site. The workshop repair is due to WHS and security issues.	
c) BWD – car park Wallace ST – \$820k	Whilst the relocation of the Council Depot is a long term vision, the allocated funding will not complete that. This project is just entering to enter the planning phase, The allocated budget will progress the project until a design and detailed estimate can be completed.	
d) BWD – Blackspot – Araluen Rd – Corridor safety treatment - \$670k	Council has applied for, and now gained, funding for this project through the NSW Safer Roads Program under the Saving Lives on Country Roads fund. The treatments will see installation of road side barriers to keep cars from coming off the road, vegetation clearing to improve the clear zones on roadsides and specific treatments for a number of curves to slow down speeds and provide additional warning and safety treatments for vehicles to manage speed to navigate the corners on Araluen Road. This work is due to start after July 2020 and finish within the 20/21 financial year	
e) BWD – Majors Creek RFS station replacement - \$400k	The allocated funds are a rollover from the current financial year. The construction of this fire shed has been commenced and is funded by the RFS	

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7. The table of Major Projects under Strategic Pillar 3 (p52) identifies “BWD-Recreation Ground - Stage 2” as an action item for \$250k, which is a different name to what is in the Capital Works Program 2020-21 (BWD - Braidwood Recreation Ground Construction). Is this a typo or is it actually the same item as in the 2019-20 plan “BWD - SCCF – Recreation Area Stage 2” for \$250k, albeit with a different project number?	This is a typo and will be amended	
8. Listing of the Review of Delivery Program 2018-21 in Appendix 5 (p94) identifies a number of the Nerriga Road project elements. The BCA is not fully aware of QPRC's accounting practices but accounting practices but notes these are funded from reserves when the BCA understands these were funded by a NSW grant. Could an explanation please be provided?	When grant funding is received, especially for large projects such as Nerriga Rd, it is placed into a reserve and drawn down as required. The project is fully funded by grants.	