



BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 29th Sept 2026

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025-26

Founded in 2018, the Braidwood Community Association is an inclusive community group open to all full and part-time residents of the Braidwood District. It holds monthly open meetings and has an elected Committee which also meets monthly.

The BCA provides an ongoing and open public forum to discuss issues affecting the communities of Braidwood and District. We engage with Council and QPRC staff to represent the interests of our community on many local and LGA-wide issues.

Since our last AGM in September 2025, the Braidwood Community Association has continued to represent local residents through public meetings, Council submissions, advisory committees and collaboration with community groups.

Working with Council

QPRC provides many opportunities for community consultation, and the BCA actively engages with Councillors, the General Manager and staff to advocate for our community. We do this by:

- Attending Council meetings and providing oral and written submissions to Council consultations
- Attending meetings and workshops on specific issues
- Representation on QPRC Advisory Committees
- Consultation with Councillors and Council staff
- Collaborating with Council's Community Development Team to disseminate information and provide feedback on community needs.
- Collaborating with local community organisations to ensure that all voices are heard.

Working with the Community

- Monthly meetings are open to all full and part-time residents of Braidwood and District.
- Emails are sent to all our members and supporters with updates on our activities and on local issues.
- The BCA maintains a website including records of our meetings and all our submissions.
- Regular informal meetings are held with representatives of the villages and rural areas.
- The BCA consults with and supports the work of our local representatives on QPRC's Seniors Advisory Committee
- The BCA has a representative on the Braidwood MPS Community Consultative Committee
- The BCA consults and works with the BAVBC (Business Chamber) and other community groups on local issues and projects
- On request, the BCA has provided support letters for local projects
- The BCA is Involved in planning for the annual QPRC Braidwood Christmas party

Community issues 2025-26

Key priorities have included the Braidwood Structure Plan, 88 Wallace Street renewal, water supply, community transport, disability access, seniors' services, affordable housing, pedestrian safety, heritage, rural roads, traffic and parking.

Braidwood Structure Plan:

The final Braidwood Structure Plan was endorsed by Council in March 2026 after several years of development and community consultation. This is a key planning document and sets the direction for the future development of Braidwood. The BCA was instrumental in reorienting the plan towards more sustainable growth, including limits on development due to water security concerns.

Renewal 88 Wallace Street and Carpark

For several years Council has been consulting with the community about the redevelopment of 88 Wallace St (formerly D&S Motors) and some of the Council Depot site to deliver a new car park and a pedestrian link to Wallace St, along with an integrated community space. The BCA has collaborated with other community representatives on a Council Community Focus Group to assist in developing the plans. Work has recently started on this important project in the centre of Braidwood.

Water Supply and Sewerage Planning

The BCA has been following Water and Sewerage issues very closely almost since its formation. After many years of BCA lobbying, Water and Sewerage charges were finally harmonised across QPRC. This resulted in a reduction in sewer charges of \$282 in Palerang and in average water charges of \$127, a total reduction of \$409 per household. This is a great outcome for Braidwood residents.

There are two huge infrastructure projects being considered in the LGA – the Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade (+/- \$200m) and the Bungendore Water Pipeline (+/- \$100m). These dwarf any other projects and must preoccupy Council and Council staff in the coming years to ensure there are no cost blow-outs, otherwise the additional costs will inevitably fall on ratepayers.

It also means that dealing with issues like the security of Braidwood's water supply and our water quality are down the list of priorities. The BCA pointed out that we would eventually run out of water under the initial population projections in the draft Braidwood Structure Plan. Council acknowledged this in the final Structure Plan by putting a cap on new development in Braidwood. The BCA notes that Council has taken action to try and reduce the amount of 'lost' water and leaks in the system, but whether this will be enough to address the issue of the Shoalhaven River having insufficient flows during times of extreme and extended drought is unknown.

Community Transport

The BCA has investigated this for several years and has contacted all levels of Govt about the need for a subsidised community transport service, as we have no public transport system. Our BCA "Transport Options" brochure published in 2024 was well-received and will be updated in 2027. Recent contact with a company based in Moruya has opened up an option for subsidized transport for people on Aged Care Packages.

Disability Access:

The BCA is aware of the many accessibility problems in Braidwood and has discussed these with Council. Our submission on the QPRC draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan (Sept 2026)

highlighted the need to rectify some of the serious safety issues in Wallace Street, and the need for more footpaths and safe pedestrian access in town. We await Council's response to this submission.

Seniors Issues

The BCA helped with the 2026 Seniors Week events by auspicing a QPRC Community Grant for activities in Braidwood and district. Ideas and concerns about the needs of our senior residents are discussed with local representatives on the QPRC Seniors Advisory Committee and with Councillors and QPRC staff. The Community First Thursday Lunch event provides opportunities to share information with Seniors. The BCA donated \$500 towards the 2025 First Thursday Christmas lunch, using funds generously donated by the Braidwood Book Fair.

Affordable Housing

The BCA currently has 2 representatives on the QPRC Affordable Housing Working Group. Regular meetings are held and the needs of our community are discussed. Action so far has been focused on Queanbeyan where several State Govt projects are underway to provide more Social Housing.

Rates Review Panel

The BCA was represented on the 2026 QPRC Rates Review Panel. The panel recommended no changes to the current Rates Structure.

Footpaths and Pedestrian Safety

QPRC conducted a review of the **Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan for Braidwood, Bungendore and Queanbeyan** in May 2025. The BCA believes that the current priority list of footpaths and pedestrian islands planned for Braidwood needs further review and we will be seeking discussions about this with Council staff.

Heritage Conservation and Interpretation

The Braidwood District has three representatives on the QPRC Heritage Advisory Committee. In addition, in early 2025 the BCA initiated and supported the development of a project to create a Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) for Braidwood. The Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber sponsored a grant application for a "Caring for State Heritage" Grant. This received Council support and funding was received from NSW State Heritage and QPRC to employ heritage consultants **GML Heritage** to develop a Heritage Interpretation Plan, in response to recommendations from the 15 Year Review of Braidwood's State Heritage Listing.

A local Steering Committee with representatives from several organizations including the BCA is actively involved in this project and the draft HIP plan is well underway.

Rural Roads

The BCA has consistently supported better maintenance of rural roads and is pleased to see increased QPRC funding for road crews to perform this essential work.

Parking and Traffic Issues

The impact of coastal traffic on our town and surrounding roads, including Braidwood's residential streets, remains a live issue with no easy solutions. The BCA supports more research and investigation of ways to protect the town and our residents, while still supporting the need for tourism and visitor spending at our local businesses.

Acknowledgements

The BCA could not function without support from many people and organisations. Our sincere thanks go to the following:

- Mayor Kenrick Winchester and the QPRC Councillors who take a genuine interest in our local communities and consult with us about local issues and projects. Particular thanks go to Cr Bill Waterhouse who attends our open BCA meetings and keeps in touch with us on local issues.
- QPRC General Manager Rebecca Ryan and the senior managers at QPRC for their active interest and involvement in our community.
- The members of the QPRC staff who respond to our submissions, answer our questions, provide information, attend local community meetings and do their best to support our local projects.
- The wonderful staff of the Braidwood Servicemen's Club who make us so welcome at the Club and provide whatever help we need.
- The many hard-working local organisations who work for the good of the entire community, both in Braidwood and in the Villages and other localities.

My personal thanks go to the hard-working members of the BCA Committee who generously commit their time, ideas, expertise and enthusiasm to work for the community. The 2025-26 BCA Committee were Sue Murray (President), David Anthony (Vice-President), Sarah Leheny (Secretary), Martin Glover (Treasurer), John Tuckwell (researcher, submission writer and all-round expert), Judy van Rijswijk (Publicity) and Cathie Owen (Seniors and Health issues).

Finally thank you to all the BCA members who have supported us in our work for the communities of Braidwood and District over the last 8 years. We look forward to another year of working with the community, QPRC Councillors and staff and other levels of Govt to enhance the well-being and sustainability of our community.

Sue Murray
President,
Braidwood Community Association

29 September 2026

BCA Submissions 2025-26

The BCA has made written submissions to Council on the following:

[BCA Submission on the Draft QPRC Disability Inclusion Access Plan](#) (September 2026)

[BCA Submission on the QPRC Draft Strategic Plan for Water and Sewerage](#) (August 2026)

[BCA Submission on the QPRC Draft Rural Contributions Plan](#) (August 2026)

[BCA Submission on the QPRC Draft Integrated Plans 2026-27](#) (June 2026)

[BCA Submission on the revised Braidwood Structure Plan](#) (February 2026)

[BCA Submission on the 88 Wallace Street redevelopment designs](#) (October 2025)

[Joint submission by five Braidwood community groups on the 88 Wallace Street redevelopment designs](#) (October 2025)

All these submissions are on our BCA website. <https://www.braidwoodcommunity.org.au/>