



BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Comments on the QPRC Delivery Program 2022–26

The Braidwood Community Association (BCA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) Delivery Program 2022–26

The comments given are also informed by the recent Braidwood community meeting held on 12 May and the supporting documentation which provided further clarity on the Draft Program.

Summary

In 2021 the BCA undertook an exhaustive and inclusive process of determining which priority issues the community would like progressed by this Council. The top 6 issues for Braidwood and surrounding district are all included in the Draft Program, with BCA's reaction to these as follows:

- The BCA requests that Council gives an undertaking that there will be no cuts in real terms in annual funding for rural roads in the Draft Program compared to the previous one, reflecting the importance given by the community to increase real funding for rural roads.
- The BCA welcomes the inclusion of the action to 'Develop a Braidwood Structure Plan', and trusts that will be an inclusive process with ample time for the community to provide input and drive this process.
- The BCA welcomes the inclusion of the action to 'Enhance water security in villages and townships' and underlines the importance of drought proofing Braidwood's water supply and requests it be fully consulted on this issue.
- There is an urgent need to address climate change and the BCA believes the review of the Community Climate Change Action Plans should be brought forward to 2022-24 so that actions can be taken and implemented within the life of this Council.
- The BCA supports the 'Implementation of Urban Forest Cooling Strategy' and would like to see it fully implemented and resourced.
- The BCA welcomes the commitment to 'increase community awareness of QPRC's heritage value through Tourism Plan and expansion of Heritage advisor services over 2022-26'. The BCA expects that Council will ensure the preservation of Braidwood's unique Georgian town centre and heritage buildings as required by the State Heritage Listing of the town, and by the listing of many sites on the State and Local Heritage Registers.
- The BCA suggests that the omissions of a review of Queanbeyan sewerage plan and charges and the harmonisation of Palerang and Queanbeyan fees and charges from 2023-24 are included in the Draft Program.

On other aspects of the Draft Plan, the BCA would like to highlight:

- The BCA seeks an assurance from Council that all uncompleted projects from the previous Delivery Program, not under review, will be rolled over into the Draft Program.
- The BCA would welcome a statement from Council regarding what steps it intends to take to improve its project management to ensure a better completion rate of projects.
- The BCA does not believe the provision of the proposed new Pedestrian Refuges provide best value for money, and requests that Council revisit their proposal and focus on the construction of footpaths instead.
- The BCA welcomes the action to 'Improve parking availability in Braidwood', which should include the project 'BWD - Car park Wallace St'.

- The BCA is keen to work with Council not only in the development of an Affordable Housing Strategy but also in its implementation.

On the difficult question of QPRC budget situation, the BCA would like to highlight, at this stage:

- That sufficient time is given in the consultation process on future revenue options to allow organisations like the BCA time to consult with their members and local community on the options, and potentially propose alternative options and obtain feedback on these before decisions are made.
- Should the results of the service review process result in proposals to make cuts in services, the BCA expects there will be full consultation with the community before any decisions are made.
- The BCA would like to receive a commitment from Council that any dividends that may be introduced will not in any way undermine the function of the utility funds.

Priorities of the BCA

Before the election of the current Council, the BCA conducted an exhaustive and inclusive three-step process of determining which priority projects for Braidwood and surrounding district the community wanted to see progressed during this term of QPRC. Given that most elected Councillors or their groups gave their support to these priorities to varying degrees, it is not unreasonable to expect these to be reflected in the Draft Program.

The results are given in Attachment 1, with the top 6 issues being:

1. Better maintenance of unsealed roads

Action DP4.2 states ‘Improve Council’s network of unsealed roads’ (p56) with the project ‘QPR - Local roads resheeting program’ having a budget of \$2.1m for the whole of QPRC throughout the outlook period 2022-26 (p59). This is an improvement in terms of transparency on the previous program 2018-21, which did not identify a budget for unsealed roads.

The previous program gave a single budget line for ‘QPR - Local Roads Capital’, which had a budget of \$22.8m over 3 years or an average of \$7.6m pa. The draft plan gives three local roads projects: ‘QPR - Local roads resheeting program’; ‘QPR - Local roads renewal’; and ‘QPR - Local roads rehabilitation’. The total budget for these three items over 4 years is \$17.2m or an average of \$4.3m pa. This suggests that Council is proposing a dramatic 43% cut in local roads funding on an annual basis in the draft program.

To ensure that we are dealing with like-with-like, we sought clarification from Council staff, and it appears that 2018/19-2020/21 financial years benefited from \$3m in loan funding each year (no explanation was given why). Apparently, this funding is now not available or included in the budgets shown in the draft program. The exclusion of these loans leads to a 5% cut in annual rural roads funding from the previous delivery program.

The BCA is extremely disturbed that Council is proposing significant cuts in local roads funding on an annual basis in the draft program.

This is particularly so given the substantial deterioration in the state of rural roads during this period of prolonged exceptionally wet weather, and despite all the work done by Council staff and contractors. There is a need to significantly step-up maintenance, repair and restoration of rural roads and not propose cuts. The impacts of these adverse weather events fall mainly on rural residents, who have had to negotiate unsafe and at times dangerous roads during this prolonged and unprecedented wet period.

The BCA requests that Council gives an undertaking that there will be no cuts in real terms in annual funding for rural roads in the current program compared to the previous one

The BCA would welcome a statement from Council about what steps it intends to take to improve its project management to ensure a better completion rate of projects.

The Draft Program foresees a review of ‘Unsealed road maintenance’ over the life of this Council (p28). The BCA believes this should be undertaken earlier rather than later within the term of this Council.

2. Long-term strategic plan for Braidwood

The BCA welcomes the inclusion of the development of a Braidwood Structure Plan (Action DP3.1) over 2022-24 (p48) as this is the second highest priority for the Braidwood Community. The BCA trusts that will be an inclusive process with ample time for the community to provide input and drive this Structure Plan.

The BCA believes it would be helpful if Council was to provide an issues paper at the beginning of the process to provide clarity on the scope and role of the Braidwood Structure Plan so the community can focus its attention on the relevant considerations.

The BCA assumes this Structure Plan will consider such vital issues as Braidwood Residential and Commercial Development Zoning and the question of a bypass for Braidwood. Regarding the latter, the BCA notes that Action DP4.5 is about progressing planning with Transport for NSW for possible bypasses in Bungendore and Braidwood over 2022-26 (p56).

The BCA is unclear whether the Structure Plan will consider other live issues of discussion within the community. Some examples include: expanding Braidwood's water storage capacity; affordable and diversified housing; the location of new residential areas, and a shared path around the outskirts of Braidwood. An issues paper would help to clarify the scope of the proposed Braidwood Structure Plan.

3. Securing Braidwood's water supply

It is no surprise that this is considered by residents to be one of the most important issues to be addressed following the water restrictions during 2019-20. To recap: following the prolonged drought and the Shoalhaven River ceasing to flow, Stage 2 restrictions were imposed on 22 November 2019; these were raised to Stage 3 on 13 December and were escalated to Stage 4 restrictions – the highest level possible – on 10 January 2020, with Council having to transport potable water to Braidwood. From 14 February 2020 restrictions were progressively reduced with the Shoalhaven River started to flow again.

Braidwood's water supply is reliant on water being pumped from the Shoalhaven River to a storage dam which holds 80ML. When the river stops flowing then the water supply is turned off and the size of the storage dam is no longer adequate for Braidwood's growing population.

The BCA welcomes the inclusion of action DP4.10 to 'Enhance water security in villages and townships' over 2022-24 (p56). The BCA is aware that QPRC has engaged NSW Public Works to assist with a review of the water security for Braidwood, and that one of the actions in the draft Operational Plan is to consider NSW Public Works report on Braidwood's water supply (p68).

The BCA believes that residents in Queanbeyan would find the imposition of Stage 4 water restrictions totally unacceptable and there is no reason why it should be considered acceptable for any residents in QPRC on town water.

The BCA underlines the importance of drought proofing Braidwood's water supply and requests it be fully consulted before any decisions are reached on this issue when considering the NSW Public Works report.

4. Environmental enhancement

Not only was environmental enhancement identified as a key issue for Braidwood residents, but QPRC's own consultation identified the beautiful natural environment as one of the most important characteristics residents loved about living in the region. (p16), with environmental sustainability, including conservation, land management, sustainability, water security and education and awareness, identified as the top challenge.

The actions proposed in this sphere include:

- DP1.15 'Commit to protecting local environment by implementing Cat Containment Policy' over 2022-26 (p38).

The BCA awaits proposals in this area and will be interested to see what is proposed for peri-urban and rural areas

- DP3.3 ‘Review and uplift QPRC Operations and Community Climate Change Action Plans and implement key actions’ over 2024-26 (p48)

There is an urgent need to address climate change and the BCA believes the review of the Community Climate Change Action Plans should be brought forward to 2022-24, so that actions can be taken and implemented within the life of this Council.

- DP3.6 ‘Review Council’s Significant Tree Register’ over 2022-24 (p48)

The BCA supports this action and believes the awareness and operation of the Significant Tree Register can be substantially improved and should be given more ‘teeth’ to protect our wonderful significant trees.

- DP3.10 ‘Implementation of Urban Forest Cooling Strategy’ over 2022-26 (p49)

The BCA supports this action and would like to see it fully implemented and resourced. We are concerned that in the draft Operational Plan 2022-23 the action on this is to ‘Identify and leverage funding opportunities to implement actions from Urban Forest Cooling Strategy’ which is considered to be ‘Business as Usual’ (p55). The BCA would like to see more immediate action taken to implement this strategy, notably:

- The recruitment of an additional tree officer and a biodiversity officer;
- Funds to purchase and plant a significant number of new trees;
- Funds to undertake the much-needed surveys of the health of the current tree population, the development of the database to manage this information, and importantly the improved maintenance of existing trees.

5. Preservation of Braidwood's heritage

Heritage is one of the strengths of QPRC, particularly as Braidwood is the only town in NSW to be on the State Heritage Register. In this respect the BCA welcomes action DP3.2 ‘Increase community awareness of QPRC’s heritage value through Tourism Plan and expansion of Heritage Advisor services’ over 2022-26 (p48). The BCA notes that the State Heritage listing of “Braidwood and its Setting”, and the unique character of the historic Georgian/Victorian town centre are significant economic assets for the region’s tourism industry. At the same time the BCA is aware of a sense of frustration that the State Heritage Listing in 2006 did not lead to significant financial investment from State or Local Government to assist businesses and residents to maintain and improve their properties.

The Draft Program foresees a review of ‘Heritage’ over the life of this Council (p28). The BCA believes this review should be undertaken earlier rather than later within the term of this Council and the timing of it may be informed by the current ‘15 Year Review of the State Heritage Register listed 'Braidwood and its Setting' by GML for Heritage NSW.

The BCA notes that the draft Operational Plan 2022-23 proposes to ‘Draft appropriate heritage management controls for Braidwood township’ (p55). However, it is not clear what this entails, and the BCA would welcome an elaboration of this action. There are existing guidelines for developments in the Braidwood DCP, but these do not have the status of ‘controls’. The current GML consultation for the Review of the State Heritage listing will be a useful guide for Council on this matter. The BCA welcomes community consultation on these issues.

To preserve the town’s unique character, and to realise the economic potential identified in QPRC’s tourism strategy, the BCA urges Council to advocate for more funding and assistance from the State Government for owners of heritage listed properties in Braidwood.

Harmonisation of water, sewage, and waste charges across QPRC

The BCA notes that the second year of the harmonisation of waste charges is progressing and observes that an acceleration of the process could help address some of the revenue issues which Council is facing.

Since amalgamation in 2016 there have been very significant differences between water, sewage and waste charges in the former Queanbeyan City Council area compared to the former Palerang area. The

draft 2022-23 Revenue Policy states Braidwood residents will pay a total of \$2,496 for water, sewer, waste and stormwater charges, compared to \$1,578 paid by former QCC residents This is a difference of \$918 pa. On ‘user pays’ and equity principles, this is hard to understand or justify. While former QCC residents pay a higher rate for water consumption, this does not offset the higher access charges paid by former Palerang residents.

The BCA would like to see the harmonisation of these charges accelerated.

The BCA also notes the intention to ‘Complete Queanbeyan Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan’ in 2022-23 (DP4.8 on p58). However, there is no mention of reviewing the sewerage plan and charges. Nor is there any mention that ‘Council may then examine the phased harmonisation of Palerang and Queanbeyan fees from 2023-24’ as stated in the Draft 2022-23 Operational Plan (p19).

The BCA suggests that the omissions of a review of Queanbeyan sewerage plan and charges and the harmonisation of Palerang and Queanbeyan fees from 2023-24 are included in the Draft Program.

Projects listed in the Draft Program

Rollover of existing projects

The Draft Program already contains several projects which have been carried over from previous years. These include:

- 104105 BWD - Pool Upgrade
- 100944 BWD - Saleyards Upgrades
- 102012 BWD - Cooma Rd/Krawaree Rd
- 104299 BWD - Depot - Security gates and repair to workshop
- 710036 BWD - Landfill reinstatement
- 700043 BWD - Shoalhaven Pump station and rising main

The BCA has made detailed points on the need to rollover a significant number (13-21) of other Braidwood/Nerriga projects from the 2021-22 Operational Plan to the Draft 2022-23 Operational Plan.

For some of these, this rollover is not just for their completion in 2022-23 but will take several years before they are complete. It is therefore a surprise not to see them in the Draft Program. These include:

- 102066 NER - Nerriga Rd Section 5 - Recon widen & seal - Euradux Rd to Tates Ln
- 104540 BWD - Stormwater Improvement Program
- 100862 BWD - Car park Wallace St

The BCA is not aware how Council treats projects rolled over from the last Operational Plan of one Delivery Program to the first Operational Plan of the next Delivery Program. The BCA seeks the assurance that all remaining Braidwood/Nerriga projects, which are not under review, be rolled over and continue to be progressed expeditiously and monitored in the Delivery Program Updates.

More generally, the BCA is concerned at the completion rate of projects by Council (eg only 4 out of 34 for Braidwood/Nerriga, projects, accounting for under 9% of the value of current projects, have been completed so far for 2021-22 financial year). The BCA would therefore welcome a statement from Council regarding what steps it intends to take to improve its project management to ensure a better completion rate of projects.

Footpaths and Pedestrian Refuge

Other than the BWD - Water treatment plant renewal project, the only new projects for Braidwood listed in the Draft Program are two Pedestrian Refuges, namely:

- 104645 BWD - Pedestrian Refuge Lascelles – Monkittee
- 104646 BWD - Pedestrian Refuge Lascelles – Elrington

The BCA makes detailed points on these in its comments on the Draft 2022-23 Operational Plan arguing that the increased cost of these pedestrian due to the RMS requirement to provide streetlights does not appear to be the best value for money, compared to the construction of footpaths in town. The need for

local footpaths compared to the need to occasionally cross Lascelles St at night is not justified from feedback from local residents.

Also, the Draft Program does not include the construction of any of the remaining four priority footpaths in the Braidwood [Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan](#) (BFPF) which have a total cost of just \$163,500¹ (see Attachment 2 for a listing of all projects under the BFPF). As identified in previous surveys of community priorities, the BCA would like to see the BFPF progressively implemented to meet identified community expectations.

The BCA notes that the BFPF was adopted in 2019 and it was foreseen that the plan would be reviewed every five years. If this is the case, this review needs to be added to the reviews foreseen during the life of the Draft Program (p28).

Other comments on the Draft Program

Demographic change (p6-8)

The BCA notes that the population growth for QPRC between 2022 and 2036 at 26.5% outstrips those of other Councils in the vicinity. This suggests that QPRC must ensure that the provision of services keeps pace with the growing population.

What is even more striking is the increase in the population of our older citizens. Between 2016 and 2036, the population of those over 65 years of age is projected to increase by a staggering 98% against 35.5% of the total QPRC population as a whole and increase from 11.7% of the total population in 2016 to 17.2% in 2026. This cohort of the population have a much greater need for support services and for disabled-accessible infrastructure.

The BCA suggests that this be acknowledged in the pressure on Development and Population Growth Driver (p19) with the addition of ‘Increased need for disabled-accessible infrastructure’.

Develop an Affordable Housing Strategy and a Regional Seniors Housing Strategy

The development of an Affordable Housing strategy is a major and pressing issue at present and is expected to continue into the future. The BCA is very supportive of Council’s decision on 9 March 2022 to develop an Affordable Housing Strategy (Action DP3.7 on p48) in 2022-23.

The BCA formed a Community Housing Subcommittee in early 2021 and we have been researching the problems and possible solutions for some time. There is much interest in affordable housing from all sections of the local community. The lack of affordable housing affects local businesses, essential workers, event organisers, singles and families now priced out of the market, the growing number of older women in the community, and people who have lived locally for many years.

The BCA is keen to work with Council, not only in the development of an affordable Housing Strategy, but also in its implementation and the provision of a range of types of accommodation to address the changing needs of the community.

The BCA is also most interested in the separate but closely related proposed action to Develop a Regional Seniors Housing Strategy (DP3.8 on p49) in 2024-25.

Braidwood Parking

The BCA welcome the action to ‘Improve parking availability in Braidwood’ (Action DP3 on p56) over 2022-25.

¹ These include: along Kings Highway, between McKellar Street and the Braidwood Colonial; along Wallace Street, between Park Lane and Wilson Street; a shared path link across the recreation grounds; and along Monkittee Street, between Wilson street and Duncan Street.

Note: A footpath from Wilson Street - Between Wallace Street and the Braidwood Multi-Purpose Service was constructed in 2020-21 and three paths are due to be constructed in 2021-22, namely the Shared path along Coronation Avenue between Wallace Street and the Services Club; Footpath along Elrington Street between Wilson Street and Duncan Street; and a shared path along Duncan Street between Wallace Street and Monkittee Street. Construction of these has yet to start and may need to be rolled over into 2022-23.

The lack of parking is becoming a real impediment in Braidwood. This is an issue for residents and particularly for businesses who are missing out on potential sales opportunities. It is interesting that while this action is included, the project 'BWD - Car park Wallace St' has not been rolled over to the Draft Program. Whilst this project is not the only solution to the issue, it represents a major opportunity to improve the supply of parking. The BCA urges Council to reconsider the timeframe for relocating the Braidwood Works Depot to the designated location next to the Sewerage works on the corner of Saleyards Lane and Sandholes road. Relocation to this site has been discussed many times since the Tallaganda Shire period. Development of the existing works depot site in the centre of Braidwood has been stalled for decades due to the failure of successive councils to action this. The BCA urges Council to prioritise this relocation as a prerequisite to other much-needed developments on that site, including parking, community centre infrastructure and affordable housing.

Improved communications services across local government area

The BCA's welcomes the intention behind the action to 'Advocate for increase internet connectivity across local government area' (DP4.14 on p57) from 2022-26.

However, this issue is not just a matter of internet connectivity, which could relate to the NBN in some locations, but also to mobile phone and broadcast reception for emergency phone calls and emergency broadcast messages. There are many blackspots across rural QPRC that present a truly significant issue which are not only a constraint on economic development, but also on safety and support during times of emergency for residents and visitors alike.

The BCA suggests that action DP4.14 be renamed 'Advocate for improved communications services across local government area' or something similar as a more holistic expression of the issue. The BCA notes that we have applied for a grant for a Community Hub on Council premises to provide reliable internet and phone access for rural residents as well as local community organisations.

Youth Services

The BCA notes that several other reviews are foreseen within the life of this Council (p28) including Youth Services and also increased engagement with QPRC youth through school connections, Youth Council and Canberra Regional Joint Organisation (Action DP1.13 on p38) during 2022-23. The BCA acknowledges the work done by QPRC Community Development Officers in this space and the opportunities provided by this work to some of our young residents. More opportunities and support to include our youth in QPRC-led activities will always be welcomed.

Youth Associations would include but not be limited to Scouts, Guides, Braidwood Youth performing Arts Association, sporting groups and similar in outlying communities within QPRC.

The BCA acknowledges and appreciates the commitment and support of QPRC staff in developing facilities needed by our children and young people, including improvements to our swimming pool and the development of a Skate Park at the Recreation Ground.

Public and community transport across QPRC

The BCA supports Council's intention to 'Enhance public and community transport across QPRC' (DP4.1 p56) from 2023-25.

Through intervention by the BCA, Valmar Community transport now offers a community transport service, but we are finding it hard to engage volunteers to drive residents to medical and other appointments. In this respect the Braidwood region is very disadvantaged compared to other parts of QPRC and the BCA keen to engage with Council on this issue. This has specific impacts on our senior residents, who make up a large and increasing proportion of our population.

Local traffic issues

The BCA notes that Council intends to 'Continue risk-based approach to local traffic issues' (DP4.16 on p57) for 2022-23, although is not sure what this actually means and would appreciate an elaboration.

A common community concern in Braidwood is the impact of the 'rat-runs' through residential streets, particularly on weekends and in holiday periods and ongoing complaints about speeding by Canberra motorists on those streets.

The BCA is aware that Council did some monitoring of traffic on some side roads in Braidwood a few years ago, although it never saw the final results of this exercise. It is also aware of the monitoring exercise currently ongoing on the Kings Highway, but again is not aware of the results.

The BCA believes a traffic study to ascertain the impact of the ‘rat-runs’ on Braidwood’s residential streets should be undertaken and determine whether this a real safety issue. Such a traffic study would also inform discussion on the Braidwood Structure Plan, where it is inevitable that the issue of ‘rat-runs’ will be raised by affected residents.

QPRC Budget (p24)

Future revenue options

The BCA acknowledges the difficult financial situation of QPRC and notes that during 2022-23, Council will consider revenue options to take effect from the 2023-24 which will require some tough decisions from Council. The BCA welcomes the statement that these will be made in consultation with the community. We stand ready to be involved in this process.

The BCA asks for sufficient time for the consultation process on future revenue options, so that organisations like the BCA have time to consult with their members and local community before decisions are made. The normal consultation time of around one month is insufficient for voluntary organisations to fully consult with their members.

Service planning and reviews (p25)

The BCA notes that Council is currently undertaking a comprehensive organisational service review process on a service-by-service basis. The BCA endorses such a review, especially if it results in increased efficiencies without loss of services. The BCA believes Council should aim to improve its services, notably by improving the completion of capital projects on time and on budget; improving how it responds to enquiries and fault reports; and improving the timeliness and ease of the planning application and certification process. The Council’s website is also in need of significant upgrade to make it more welcoming and easy to navigate.

Should the results of the service review process result in proposals to make cuts in services, the BCA expects that there will be full consultation with the community before any decisions are made.

Dividend Income from Utilities (p25)

The BCA notes that consideration is being given to paying dividends from QPRC water and sewer businesses back to the General Fund to supplement rates with the cost of roads and other general fund infrastructure and services.

The BCA notes that between 2016 and 2018 the Palerang Communities Water fund was the subject of a \$203,603 pa (77.4%) increase in administration charge attributable to the General Fund. Further, there is now a 4% contribution payable to General Fund on all Water Fund capital works (estimated at a surcharge of \$1.618m over the 10-year planning horizon). Importantly, the [report to Council](#) outlining the New Tariff Structure for the Palerang Communities Water and Sewerage Schemes charges stated that these charges “represent significant pressure points on the pricing end product”.

The BCA is therefore concerned that if Council treats the utility funds as cash cows to circumvent caps on rate increases, the provision of these basic water and sewer services will be in jeopardy and we would like to receive a commitment from Council that any dividends that may be introduced will not in any way undermine the function of the utility funds.

The BCA represents the Braidwood and District communities, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this very important draft Delivery Program 2022-2026.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by Sue Murray

BCA President

On behalf of the Braidwood Community Association

29 May 2022

president@braidwoodcommunity.org.au

Results of the Survey of New Priority Projects for Braidwood and surrounding district to be progressed during the next term of Council – November 2021

Approach used

The Braidwood Community Association (BCA) followed an inclusive approach in this exercise with a thorough three-step process of determining which priority projects for Braidwood and surrounding district the community wants to be progressed during the next term of Queanbeyan and Palerang Regional Council (QPRC).

Firstly, in March 2021 the BCA undertook an on-line and hard copy survey of all residents in 2622 which, among other questions, sought ideas for potential projects to be progressed during the next term of Council. This survey had 314 responses and resulted in 217 suggestions for new future projects, with many being common ideas.

Secondly, through a ‘mining and mapping’ exercise of these ideas and through discussions with interested parties, particularly within the BCA committee, a reduced list of 13 core ideas which are considered to be QPRC’s prime responsibility was developed. Some important ideas proposed, like better telecommunications, fixing Wallace Street and funding for a new 25m swimming pool, were excluded because they are considered to be more the responsibility of NSW and federal governments.

Thirdly, all residents of 2622 (including youth) were asked to rate the importance to them of each of the 13 ideas. To reduce bias in the responses, the on-line survey randomized the order of the questions. Residents were informed that the survey results would be used to create a shortlist of 5 to 6 priority projects which the BCA would ask all Council candidates to commit to supporting prior to the upcoming QPRC elections.

The BCA did not endorse any particular candidate or ticket but gave transparency on those who had committed to progressing the community’s priority projects and those who had not. The responses received from the candidate Councillors are at: https://www.braidwoodcommunity.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Candidate_Responses.pdf.

Results

Some 210 persons responded to the survey. All but 6 of these indicated they lived in 2622 and there were 10 duplicate entries where the same name and contact were used. Those from outside 2622 and the duplicate responses have been excluded from the analysis, which leaves 194 responses or about 4.5 percent of the estimated population in 2622 (4291 persons).

Respondents were invited to rate each potential project from very low to very high importance on a 5-step scale. A weighted average can be calculated by giving ‘very low’ a score of 1 and ‘very high’ a score of 5, with appropriate weightings for the intermediate ratings.

The projects in order of descending weighted average are given overleaf, with the top 6 projects being:

1. Better maintenance of unsealed roads
2. Long-term strategic plan for Braidwood
3. Securing Braidwood's water supply
4. Environmental enhancement
5. Preservation of Braidwood's heritage
6. Harmonisation of water, sewage, and waste charges across QPRC



BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Project	Average ¹
1. Better maintenance of unsealed roads - Fully meet maintenance schedule and more transparency and communication of schedule.	4.1
2. Long-term strategic plan for Braidwood - (including locations of future housing and industrial development, possible bypass/ring road, social housing, commitment to heritage protection and beautification, tourism development etc.).	4.0
3. Securing Braidwood's water supply - QPRC is undertaking a review of water security for Braidwood, and depending on the outcome of that review, additional source options may be considered.	4.0
4. Environmental enhancement - eg. more tree planting for shade within town and along roads, protection of significant trees, management of creeks to improve public access, and encourage birdwatching and platypus viewing.	3.8
5. Preservation of Braidwood's heritage - More funding to maintain heritage buildings. Full and consistent application of the Braidwood Development Control Plan 2006.	3.6
6. Harmonisation of water, sewage, and waste charges across QPRC - Overall Braidwood residential charges are significantly higher than those charged in Queanbeyan. In 2021-22 they are higher by \$867.	3.6
7. Completion of all high priority paths in the Braidwood Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan - Excluding works for 2021-22, 4 high priority paths remain at a total estimated cost of \$761,000 (2019 prices).	3.3
8. Development of a shared path around Braidwood - While sections of this could be completed during the next Council term, completion of the overall path may take longer.	3.1
9. More car parking - QPRC is hoping to commence some initial stages of a car park behind D&S Motors and expand on that when their Works Depot is relocated.	3.0
10. Traffic calming of key side streets throughout the town (eg. speed humps and review of speed limits) including the known hotspots of McKellar, Elrington, Wilson and Monkittee streets.	3.0
11. Community centre with scope for performing arts space	2.9
12. Facilitate the development of a caravan park for Braidwood	2.9
13. Develop cycling infrastructure to make the region a cycling destination (eg. dirt bike trails, signage)	2.7

¹ Weighted average where 'very low' importance has a score of 1 and 'low' is 2, 'medium' is 3, 'high' is 4 and 'very high' is 5

Extract from the [Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plans](#)

Appendix A Schedule of Works

REFID	Link Description	Priority	Path Length (m)	Total Cost
F1	Kings Highway- between McKellar Street and the Braidwood Colonial	High	250	\$45,000
F2	Wilson Street - Between Wallace Street and the Braidwood Multi-Purpose Service	High	360	\$65,000
F6	Wallace Street - Between Park Lane and Wilson Street	High	100	\$18,000
F7	Elrington Street - Between Wilson Street and Duncan Street	High	210	\$31,000
S1	Shared path link across the recreation grounds	High	450	\$68,000
S2	Link between Wallace Street and the Services Club	High	660	\$98,500
S3	Duncan Street - between Wallace Street and Monkitee Street	High	420	\$62,500
S7	Monkitee Street- Between Wilson street and Duncan Street	High	220	\$32,500
R1	Refuge Island – McKellar Street west of Wallace Street	High	1 item	\$25,000
R2	Refuge Island – Wallace Street north of Duncan Street	High	1 item	\$25,000
R3	Refuge Island – Wallace Street north of Lascelles Street	High	1 item	\$25,000
R4	Refuge Island – Lascelles Street west of Wallace Street	High	1 item	\$25,000
R5	Refuge Island – Lascelles Street west of Monkitee Street	High	1 item	\$25,000
F3	Lascelles Street - Between Wallace Street and Elrington Street	Medium	430	\$77,500
F4	Wallace Street - Lascelles Street and Coghill Street	Medium	220	\$39,500
F5	Wilson Street - Between Ryrie Street and Park Lane	Medium	280	\$42,000
F8	Elrington Street - Between Duncan Street and the Recreation Ground	Medium	380	\$56,500
S4	Monkitee Street - between Duncan Street and Cowper Street	Medium	440	\$66,500
S5	Ryrie Street and McKellar Street - Between Duncan Street and Kings Highway	Medium	630	\$95,000
S6	Link between Wallace Street along Coghill to Coronation Avenue	Medium	660	\$99,000
S8	Wallace street - Between Coghill Street and Cowper Street	Medium	300	\$44,500
M1	Along Garvey Street - Between Flood Creek and Coronation Avenue	Medium	290	\$4,500
M2	Along Coghill Street - Between the Recreation Ground and Monkitee Street	Medium	130	\$2,000

Note: 1. Type of work: F = footpath, S = shared path, M = marked mixed traffic street, R = refuge
 2. Location of work – described in above table and in Figure 17 and Figure 21.