



# BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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## **Results of the Survey of Priority Issues and Projects for Braidwood and surrounding district to be progressed during the next term of Council**

### **Approach used**

The Braidwood Community Association (BCA) conducted a survey of the local community in Braidwood and surrounding district (2622 post code) asking them to rate 18 issues and projects to determine priorities to be progressed during the next term of Queanbeyan and Palerang Regional Council (QPRC).

These 18 issues were determined from issues identified in previous surveys, issues which the BCA is working on, and suggestions by members of the BCA. The survey was open from 12 July until 12 August and involved both an on-line and hard copy survey of all residents in 2622. 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 then ask all Council candidates to commit to supporting and progressing, should they be elected, prior to the upcoming QPRC elections.

The BCA will not endorse any particular candidate or group but will give publicity to those who have committed to progressing the community's priority projects and those who have not.

### **Results**

Some 188 people responded to the survey with 173 on-line and 15 with hard copy forms. This represents a response rate approaching 9 percent of the estimated voting population<sup>1</sup>. All indicated they lived in 2622, with 83 living in Braidwood, 28 in a surrounding village and 84 rural (some respondents put more than one type of location). 92% indicated they were full-time residents.

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. If the average score is over 4, then respondents believe the issue is over high importance.

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

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

If an issue/project is not on this list above, it does not mean it will not be progressed during the next term of Council. It just means that the BCA is not asking Council candidates to commit to supporting and progressing them.

The full results are given in the table overleaf.

17 August 2024

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<sup>1</sup> The population over 18 years old and over in Palerang Eastern Areas in the 2021 census, which approximates to 2622, and totals 2197 persons.



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Issue / Project	Weighted Average <sup>2</sup>
Better maintenance of rural roads – including fully meeting the maintenance schedule for unsealed roads and better communication of the grading schedule.	4.35
Long-term strategic plan for Braidwood - eg locations of future housing and industrial development, rezoning, possible bypass/ring road, social housing, commitment to heritage protection and beautification, tourism development etc.	3.89
Securing Braidwood's water supply - QPRC is undertaking a review of water security for Braidwood, which may consider additional source / storage options.	3.78
Harmonisation of water and sewerage charges across QPRC. Overall Braidwood charges are significantly higher than those charged in Queanbeyan. In 2024-25 they will be \$676 higher.	3.66
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.	3.65
Community Transport – Council to investigate ways to provide or facilitate community transport for medical appointments and outings as done by other LGAs.	3.62
Covered and heated swimming pool – while the pool and changing facilities have been upgraded, covering and heating the pool will extend the length of the swimming season and the use of the pool.	3.57
More affordable rental housing in Braidwood. With increasing house prices there is a real need for a supply of appropriate affordable rental housing.	3.57
Preservation of Braidwood's heritage - More funding to maintain heritage buildings. Better consultation and communication with Braidwood residents in line with the recommendations of the GML reports on the management of the State Heritage Listing of Braidwood and its Setting.	3.55
More off-street car parking - QPRC to commence a small car park behind D&S Motors and expand it when their Works Depot is relocated.	3.29
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 Monkittie streets.	3.26
Completion of all high priority paths in the Braidwood Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan. Current works outstanding include a priority path and 2 refuge islands. The Plan is to be reviewed and will add new priority paths.	3.19
Development of a shared path around Braidwood. While sections of this could be completed during the next Council term, completion of the overall path would take longer.	3.09
Truck and RV Parking – need for designated parking areas and signage.	3.03
Facilitate the development of a caravan park for Braidwood.	2.86
Develop cycling infrastructure to make the region a cycling destination (eg. mountain bike trails, signage).	2.71
Enclosed off-lead dog park – there are many dog owners who would like to see the provision of an enclosed off-lead dog park separating large from small dogs to allow dogs to exercise in safety.	2.55
Regulating short-term holiday rentals and capping the number of days per year that can be booked.	2.35

<sup>2</sup> 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.