

Braidwood and District Priorities for the 2023 NSW State Election

The Braidwood Community Association (BCA) invites all candidates in the Monaro Electorate to commit in writing to pursuing the priorities listed below should they be elected. The candidates' responses will be made public, and it will then be up to each individual voter to decide which of the candidates best reflect their personal needs and desires. The BCA will not endorse any particular candidate or ticket.

Approach used

Building on previous surveys conducted in 2021 and 2022 to determine issues of importance to the Braidwood and district community, the BCA developed a questionnaire listing 22 issues or projects which are relevant for the forthcoming NSW State election.

Results

Some 73 persons responded to the survey, about 1.7 percent of the estimated population in 2622 (4343 persons). This is significantly lower than the 210 who responded to a similar survey on priorities for the QPRC elections.

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

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

Priority issues / projects

1. **More staff for Braidwood MPS.** Especially more Registered Nurses and Doctors on call/duty 24/7. This is linked to provision of more housing for hospital staff.
2. **Significant increase in the repair and maintenance of rural roads.** There needs to be a step change in the amount of funding by the NSW government to reverse this deterioration in the state of rural roads, particularly those maintained by Councils. (Note: NSW government recently announced \$500m to tackle flood-damaged roads throughout the state).
3. **Securing Braidwood's water supply.** Future droughts and higher demand will require a more secure water supply for Braidwood. State government assistance may be required to help fund this.
4. **More affordable housing in Braidwood.** There is a shortage of accommodation in Braidwood and district and a lack of diverse housing options. The NSW government needs to provide more support for proposed solutions to address this serious issue.
5. **Rate Cap Methodology Reform.** Reform the methodology to calculate the rate cap so annual increases better reflect the funding needs of Councils to avoid the need for large rate increases through special rates variations.
6. **Alleviation of cost-of-living pressures.** Given the sharp rise in the cost-of-living pressures, the NSW government needs to propose more innovative solutions to assist people in need.



BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Issues	Very low importance		Low importance		Medium importance		High importance		Very high importance		Weighted Average ¹
More staff for Braidwood MPS.	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	13.7%	10	30.1%	22	56.2%	41	4.42
Significant increase in the repair and maintenance of rural roads.	1.4%	1	2.7%	2	16.4%	12	23.3%	17	56.2%	41	4.30
Securing Braidwood's water supply.	1.4%	1	4.1%	3	16.4%	12	28.8%	21	49.3%	36	4.21
More affordable housing in Braidwood.	5.5%	4	9.6%	7	13.7%	10	19.2%	14	52.1%	38	4.03
Rate Cap Methodology Reform.	5.5%	4	2.7%	2	21.9%	16	30.1%	22	39.7%	29	3.96
Alleviation of cost-of-living pressures.	5.5%	4	2.7%	2	28.8%	21	23.3%	17	39.7%	29	3.89
Additional transport for Braidwood.	4.1%	3	8.2%	6	28.8%	21	24.7%	18	34.2%	25	3.77
Measures to retain youth and young families in Braidwood.	4.1%	3	5.5%	4	26.0%	19	38.4%	28	26.0%	19	3.77
Preservation of Braidwood's heritage.	12.3%	9	12.3%	9	16.4%	12	19.2%	14	39.7%	29	3.62
Caravan and Camping Park for Braidwood.	8.2%	6	6.8%	5	34.2%	25	20.5%	15	30.1%	22	3.58
Braidwood Depot relocation / Car Park – 80 Wallace Street.	11.0%	8	11.0%	8	20.5%	15	28.8%	21	28.8%	21	3.53
Finalise sealing of Nerriga Road.	4.1%	3	12.3%	9	31.5%	23	31.5%	23	20.5%	15	3.52
Drainage and beautification of Braidwood's main street.	5.5%	4	15.1%	11	30.1%	22	20.5%	15	28.8%	21	3.52
Braidwood's Clean Energy Independence.	8.2%	6	13.7%	10	27.4%	20	23.3%	17	27.4%	20	3.48
Environmental enhancement.	6.8%	5	12.3%	9	34.2%	25	27.4%	20	19.2%	14	3.40
Swimming Centre.	11.0%	8	20.5%	15	17.8%	13	19.2%	14	31.5%	23	3.40
Upgrade the sealed sections of Nerriga Road.	4.1%	3	17.8%	13	38.4%	28	24.7%	18	15.1%	11	3.29
More Footpaths.	12.3%	9	12.3%	9	30.1%	22	28.8%	21	16.4%	12	3.25
Traffic calming of key side streets throughout Braidwood.	15.1%	11	15.1%	11	24.7%	18	21.9%	16	23.3%	17	3.23
Creek and Flood Management.	11.0%	8	15.1%	11	32.9%	24	31.5%	23	9.6%	7	3.14
Development of a shared path around Braidwood.	12.3%	9	15.1%	11	41.1%	30	20.5%	15	11.0%	8	3.03
Develop cycling infrastructure.	28.8%	21	23.3%	17	26.0%	19	15.1%	11	6.8%	5	2.48

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