

Responses to Braidwood Community Association's list of six priority projects

The Braidwood Community Association (BCA) wrote to lead candidate Councillors for the upcoming QPRC elections on 4 November inviting them to endorse the BCA's list of six priority projects and commit to pursuing these issues over the life of the next Council should they and/or anyone from their ticket be elected as a Councillor (see proforma letter attached). The responses received are as follows:

Katrina WILLIS (GROUP A - THE GREENS)

Better maintenance of unsealed roads

The condition of unsealed roads in Braidwood and district have been raised often in our conversations with residents. While noting that recent natural disasters have caused widespread damage, safe roads are vital. Road maintenance is also a major expense for councils. The Greens support QPRC developing a medium-term maintenance schedule, advising the community of planned maintenance and communicating progress, including where delays are anticipated. Plans by the NSW Government for the reclassification and transfer of some roads to the State Government will relieve QPRC of certain maintenance responsibilities. It makes sense for some of the savings from this transfer to be redirected to unsealed roads. Roads will continue to be vulnerable to damage from stronger storms, floods and bushfires. Strong climate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is needed to contribute to the global task of limiting warming and the consequential adverse impacts on infrastructure.

Long-term strategic plan for Braidwood (including locations for future housing, industrial development possible bypass, heritage protection & tourism development)

Given the growth of Braidwood's population in recent years, the need for additional facilities and its unique identity as a State-listed Heritage Town, it makes sense to develop a long-term strategic plan. We understand that the council anticipates starting work on such a plan in the next year. Protecting and promoting the town's heritage values go hand in hand; this should be supported with state, not just local, government funding. We understand there are different views about a town bypass. In particular, the impact on small businesses which have been hit with many challenges in the past two years. A bypass would require consideration of local businesses and ecological impacts. It needs to be part of a broader vision of making the town centre a vibrant place for tourists. There are bound to be lessons from other centres e.g. Holbrook and Goulburn on the Hume Highway. Installing electric vehicle charging stations is one example of a way to attract tourists to visit and spend a few hours.

Securing Braidwood's water supply

Providing safe, reliable drinking water to towns is a core responsibility of QPRC. Braidwood's experience during the most recent drought, where potable water had to be trucked from ACT reservoirs, illustrates the urgency of addressing this matter. We recently asked QPRC about progress and were told that NSW Public Works had formed a view that additional storage capacity is not needed. Any solution to secure water supply needs to consider potential growth of the town, including residential, industrial and agricultural activities. Water conservation should be the first focus, as it delays the need to impose restrictions. The Greens would like to see QPRC expand its Waterwise program to help people meet the costs of upgrading appliances and fittings, in particular for older premises. Grant funding should be sought, if required, to help fund this. As water supplies are susceptible to the impacts of climate change, this is another reason to be taking strong climate action.

Environmental enhancement (tree planting for shade, protection of significant trees, management of creeks to improve public access)

The Greens support the community's aspirations for improving the local environment. Such measures as trees for shade are part of adapting to climate change as well as mitigating future warming, and the council's Urban Forest and Cooling Strategy recognises this. Significant trees should be protected unless, as can occur with large, old trees, they pose a danger to people or threaten an occupied property. During the COVID-19 lockdown, when people were required to stay close to home, the importance of a healthy, inviting and accessible environment became all the more valuable. Developing walking trails, birdwatching opportunities, platypus viewing and other low-impact activities within the town or nearby will provide amenities for residents as well as offer new opportunities to attract visitors to experience the town and surrounding villages.

Preservation of Braidwood's heritage

The Greens consider local heritage a very important part of local identity. The local heritage characteristics of our towns and villages differentiates them from Canberra. This makes them not only attractive places in which to live but an economic strength as well. Heritage recognition, promotion and protection should encompass First Nations' connections and history as well as natural heritage, protecting our landscapes, rivers, forests, woodlands and grasslands. Refer to our answer, above, about the need for adequate resources to maintain heritage. Regulations designed to protect heritage items should be applied consistently, Where minor variations are deemed reasonable (accommodating modern requirements and standards without detracting from core heritage values), this needs to be explained to the community.

Harmonisation of water, sewage and waste charges across QPRC

While the council says it has harmonised the rates and charges, this is not the same as equalising them. Therefore, disparities exist. Charges for a typical Braidwood residence are about \$1,000/yr more than for a typical Queanbeyan house. However, Braidwood rates are lower than Queanbeyan rates, with a lower base and ad-valorem rate, by about \$500/yr for a typical Braidwood house. The net effect leaves Braidwood residences about \$500/yr worse off.

It's not clear why charges are so much higher in Braidwood. It could be to do with the higher price to service and provide infrastructure per lot owing to the smaller township relative to other urban centres in QPRC. Council should explain the reasons.

Efforts should always be made to look for ways to reduce the impact of charges. e.g. by reducing waste to landfill by increasing recycling rates, repairing (e.g. repair café) and composting at home, installing rainwater tanks for gardens and laundry requirements, improving water retention of soils through addition of organic matter and mulching, and conserving water through water audits and installation of efficient appliances. This is particularly the case for older homes and business premises. Residents living on low incomes may need assistance to convert to water efficient appliances, such as using the council's Waterwise program. Non-resident property owners may need incentives to make changes for tenanted homes and business premises and there may be NSW government funds available to assist with this.

Mareeta GRUNDY (GROUP B INDEPENDENT)

I am the lead candidate for GROUP B INDEPENDENTS in the upcoming QPRC election.

Firstly, may I congratulate the BCA on carrying out the three step process to determine the top priority projects the community wishes the QPRC to pursue during its coming term. The community should also be congratulated for being so proactive in determining its future. It is very impressive.

It is worth noting that this next term is 2 years only. That said, I have read with great interest the top 6 projects deemed most important to the community. I am pleased to say that Group B can commit to pursuing these projects, the majority of which are directly consistent with the policies of Group B.

We seek to make regional road maintenance and upgrades one of the highest priorities for Council and one of the ways to do this is to examine the failures of existing procedures, policies and methodologies, including schedules.

We also seek for Council to better support the tourism and the visitor economy through its policies, projects and decisions in relation to accommodation, town beautification & natural enhancement, parking, town planning and the like.

Another of our policies which underpins your priority project list is our pursuit of a Comprehensive Independent Review of Council. This will enable Council to move forward with informed eyes in a number of areas, including town planning, infrastructure funding, tourism and operational spending, to drive proper reforms and efficiencies. It will also expose inconsistencies in Council policies around things like rates and charges. We too are concerned by a levy system that overburdens a section of the community, like Braidwood, without due cause and we will pursue any unfairness. This Independent Review will also be helpful in targeting oversights such as the lack of a Master Plan for Braidwood and will open up opportunities for expenditure efficiencies to create flow on benefits such as more equitable funding of town beautification and general environmental enhancement projects as you have identified.

While our group has not specifically identified Braidwood's water supply as a policy area we have identified our support of essentials before gold plated extras. We would see a secure water supply for Braidwood as essential and it seems entirely reasonable to be supportive of Council considering additional water source options in order to secure that water supply.

While we have not specifically listed heritage preservation as a policy we believe heritage to be of fundamental importance in a number of areas such as tourism and citizen lifestyle satisfaction. Actively seeking additional government grant funding for heritage rehabilitation purposes would be entirely fitting. One of our core policies is to enact Council reforms to enable our region to be a leader in lifestyle and ratepayer satisfaction in NSW.

I hope this helps outline our commitment to the issues you have identified.

Further elaboration on Independent Review of Council and housing

The Independent Review we have in mind would be commissioned by Council and performed by a specialist independent company. Such reviews are usually performed when a new General Manager joins a Council. They give a new GM a mandate for reform. In our case it would give the new Council the same mandate, but so much more. It would provide an independent assessment of how QPRC is performing in terms of planning, project delivery, customer service, financial management and the like, compared to other councils. It would enable us as a recently amalgamated Council to ask the question are we structured and focused

appropriately to serve the best interests of ratepayers. Such an independent review would allow us to look at operations with informed eyes and drive properly focused reforms so we achieve better value for the region, and it will help set us up as a financially viable Council into the future. The cost would be in the vicinity of \$100,000 but the savings will dwarf that outlay. I'm really excited about the potential of this if I and some of my fellow Group B candidates can be elected.

I'm very much across the housing shortage problem in Braidwood. I've spoken to a number of locals and in addition I've been trying for the past 18 months to get my retired father a home there without success. The problem is very real. Yes a Structure Plan for Braidwood will help, but you rightly point out that this is more medium to long term unless we have a new brand of Councillor (like Group B) in there pushing it as a high priority. However, Council could act now with some simple measures including streamlining red tape around housing development applications, even reviewing related fees and charges for a period to encourage more applications. It could also set in motion re- zoning plans attaching a high priority to those plans.

Margot SACHSE (GROUP C - INDEPENDENT)

No reply by the due date requested.

Stefo (Steve) TASKOVSKI (GROUP D - INDEPENDENT)

No reply by the due date requested.

Karuna BAJRACHARYA / Keith Potger (GROUP E – INDEPENDENT – Below the line)

The Group E response to the BCA's Top Six Projects list is in general a positive one.

All six of your issues are well enunciated and pertain relevantly to us in the 2622 region.

Because of the registration irregularity, our Lead Candidate, Karuna Bajrachaya, has issued a media statement which says in part:

“It was a difficult decision to make...to pull out of the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council elections. As many of you know, our group's candidate, Adam Honey, had his nomination rejected due to me uploading a single file into the wrong section of his application. Without six candidates in our group, it meant we were no longer entitled to a “voting square above the line” and put us at a great disadvantage, not being able to share preferences with other ATL groups. Whilst I performed remarkably well during the last election, I have to admit now, that without a group, election to QPRC is virtually impossible.

Ours was not a unique case but especially on the final day of submissions when the Electoral Commission's web site could not cope with the load and crashed continually. It all culminated in a mad last minute scramble for me personally, whereby I made some critical errors in judgement that have led to this most undesirable outcome.

I have officially withdrawn from the election, but confusingly our entire group will still appear on the ballot paper. If I am elected I have already agreed in writing to resign at the very first opportunity. For this reason I ask voters to throw all their support behind other strong local candidates.

My apologies again for letting the community down, especially my fellow group candidates who were brave enough to throw their voices behind mine. It was truly humbling to receive so much support and goodwill. Hopefully this is not the end but merely a side step.

Best regards

Karuna Bajrachaya”

In light of this statement, which has ramifications for the other team members, Group E will not actively indulge in any promotion or campaign marketing but will request that any media or social media coverage will clearly state that the group will not be canvassing votes in this forthcoming election. Instead it will make a generic statement asking voters to support other local candidates. Because of this, while we agree that your six projects are important to the Braidwood residents, we would not be able to have any influence on whether they would be on any future QPRC agenda.

We all congratulate the BCA on its support of the local community and wish the BCA continued success in advocating for Braidwood.

Thank you.

Karuna Bajrachaya
Keith Potger
Nathan Pharaoh
Claire Docherty
Deanne Allchin

Kenrick WINCHESTER (GROUP F - INDEPENDENT)

Thank you to the BCA for the work that you do on behalf of the community and compiling this list of issues which residents would like to see addressed. I will address each issue individually.

1. Better maintenance of unsealed roads

Maintenance and upgrading of unsealed roads continue to be a major issue throughout the council area, and has been exacerbated by the weather we have been experiencing of late. We all should be aware that extreme weather events are expected to occur more frequently into the future, so we need to be prepared, and be providing additional resources to ensure our roads are safe and actually drivable. I have been studying how other rural councils address unsealed roads and believe there are many lessons to be learnt. I also believe we should be committed to sealing a certain number of kilometres per year, which will directly lead to less grading being required.

In the previous 12 months, I have joined with many local residents who have submitted complaints regarding the state of their roads. I have reached out to these residents and driven the roads alongside them, in areas such as Boro, Mt Fairy, Forbes Creek, Carwoola, Williamsdale, Butmaroo and others.

Seeing firsthand the state of some of the roads has not only helped me to advocate on residents' behalf, but also ensures that our ratepayers know that they are being heard, that someone is actually listening and cares, and I will continue to do make myself available for these road inspections if I am re-elected to council.

2. Long-term strategic plan for Braidwood

In my opinion, the number 1 priority that we need to collectively deliver for the Braidwood community during the next council term is the structure plan. We need to bring certainty to

residents regarding Council's long term vision for the town and its surrounds. The structure plan will identify land that can be potentially rezoned as commercial, as there is very little industrial land available in Braidwood, but also and perhaps more importantly for residential development. At present, there is significant pressure on existing housing stock in the region, which directly increases affordability, and releasing more land for current and future residents will assist with this issue. Of course, this will need to be done in a strategic and sustainable fashion, with input from residents. The structure plan will also identify a potential route for a bypass for the town. The bypass may prove controversial at first, however we have seen many examples how bypasses have been the making of a town, and I know we can work together to ensure Braidwood benefits from any bypass.

We need to bring forward the revamp of the former D&S site and convert it to much needed Car Parking for the Braidwood CBD, which will take pressure off the on-street parking on Wallace Street. To do this, we will likely need to bring forward the relocation of the adjoining council depot.

Thirdly, we need to ensure that Lascelles street finally receives the upgrades that have been promised, but not yet delivered. The area in and around Jeremys is potentially the busiest in the town, and it is in a very sad state. I believe the funding for this has been received, so let's get it done.

3. Securing Braidwood's water supply

A complex issue that needs addressing, especially as weather events become more unpredictable and the Braidwood region grows, we need to commission a study to investigate options that will ensure the resilience of the towns water supplies if we are once again faced with a long drought.

4. Environmental enhancement

Caring for our natural environment is a key role of council and is something I am certain the next council will take increasingly seriously. A key decision early in the term of the new Council will be the adoption of the Urban Forest Strategy. This will potentially have significant consequences not only tree maintenance, protection and plantings, but also on planning considerations and what surfaces to use for footpaths.

The new council will need to quickly avail itself of all relevant information relating to what services Council currently provides, and should be providing, and make important decisions on how these are to be funded into the future. My plan is to tour the region (with locals as my guide) to discuss how Council can assist with any projects or issues that need attention.

5. Preservation of Braidwood's heritage

Braidwood's State Heritage listing adds complexity when planning the future of the town, and when reviewing development applications, Councillors will need to take on board the sentiment of the Braidwood community, when making long term decisions recommended by heritage advisers and council staff. We need to ensure that staff have the expertise and training to be able to assess DAs, and work with Heritage NSW to preserve Braidwood's character. We need to ensure there is consistency when it comes to the referrals to Heritage NSW, as this has been an issue in recent times. There is certainly room for improvement in the relationship between Council and Heritage NSW, and by improving these links we can hopefully reduce the delays we often see when a heritage impacted DA is submitted. As part of the Structure Plan process, and any subsequent updates to the Braidwood Development Control Plan, it is my intention to work side-by-side with the Braidwood Community Association, as well as other stakeholders from the area, to ensure the towns Heritage and history is in no way negatively impacted.

6. Harmonisation of water, sewage, and waste charges across QP

A comprehensive rates harmonisation project was recently undertaken, which involved significant input from the community and residents' associations. Bringing together what essentially a metro-based council in Queanbeyan City, and a rural council in Palerang, was always going to present challenges in relation to equity across the new council area, and the harmonisation process was always going to be complex.

Now that the initial project has been completed, and new rating structures implemented, Council needs to analyse the water, sewer and waste charges across the Council area to ensure they are equitable to all residents and reflect the level of service being provided.

I am aware that Braidwood residents have seen a significant increase to water charges (approx. 23%) of late, and that there is a significant disparity between the average amount Queanbeyan-based residents pay for water, sewer and waste when compared to the average Palerang resident. It is my intention to work with staff, resident's associations and other relevant stakeholders, to interrogate the data that all charges are based on, and if required, have it equitably adjusted. This is something that should occur annually, across the council area.

In relation to waste services, many residents would be aware that that council has proposed to close the green waste facilities at Majors Creek and Araluen. The new council will need to work with residents to ensure if they are indeed closed, that alternate arrangements/services are implemented, that will allow for the collection of green waste without a significant charge for doing so. We will need to work with residents and actually listen to their requests and concerns when making the final decision.

General Comment

During the previous council term, I attempted to take extra attention when issues relating to Braidwood and surrounds came to council. There is no doubt that some of the more controversial items we debated at council related to Braidwood, including the Ryrie Park upgrades, Skatepark, and certain DAs. I always did my best to attend BCA meetings, and liaise with Sue if I ever needed more information on a particular subject. I co-chaired the inaugural Majors Creek & Araluen locality committee, and that is where I met my fellow candidate Bill Waterhouse. I believe there is merit in the locality committees, however we don't have the format quite right as yet, and I believe we can work with groups such as the BCA and chamber of commerce to further improve them.

Council mergers have affected Braidwood more than any other locality in our region. The mergers have taken the local out of local government, so much so that Braidwood, went from having 9 Councillors on the old Tallaganda Shire, to I believe only one on Palerang council, to none on QPRC.

I hope to see a Council that is actually representative of the areas that make up the Council area. The previous council went pretty close, and based on where a lot of the candidates in winnable positions live, we will have good representation again, however Braidwood is the last piece of the puzzle.

Thank you

Michele BISCOTTI (GROUP G - INDEPENDENT)

As you are aware, Mayor Overall and myself, have committed over the term of the current Council to work with the BCA and Braidwood community in areas which matter the most to the community.

Therefore, the top 6 priority projects have already been focus points in the elected term and together with my team, are committed to continue the progress made.

Addressing the top 6 priority projects:

1. Better maintenance of unsealed roads - Fully meet maintenance schedule and more transparency and communication of schedule.

Given that that 58% QPRC asset value is held in roads, it would be prudent for any elected Council to articulate a well-considered approach to road maintenance, in particular rural roads and bridges. Having lived on a rural property (former Tallaganda Shire and Palerang Council) and with family and friends who still live in the rural parts of the Local Government Area (LGA), I know first-hand the importance of regular scheduled road maintenance albeit sealed, un-sealed, rural or urban for the safety of our loved ones and the community we live in.

If elected, our team is committed to:

- Lobbying State Govt for increased funding for road maintenance
- Improving community understanding of the process for prioritisation of road maintenance
- Bringing community voice to Council staff, alongside hard data for road prioritisation
- Proactive engagement with the community for a comprehensive review of annual asset management plan
- Ensure completion of the further upgrades stages – Nerriga Road (Australian Government Funding Application)
- Bridges - Deliver replacements projects for - Foxlow, River Forest Rd, Brick Kiln Lane Wallace Gap

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.

Noting that the current elected Council have undertaken significant work in developing the Bungendore Structure Plan, if elected, our team (and newly elected Council) focus must turn toward the development of a thirty-year Braidwood Structure Plan to ensure the development of Braidwood occurs in a coordinated and heritage sensitive manner and in a direction that reflects the views of the community.

This includes but not limited to:

- Relocation of the Council depot and construction of the Braidwood carpark connecting to Wallace Street
- Refurbishment of the Council building with provision for community spaces
- Delivery of the staged footpath network including footpaths to Braidwood Servicemen's Club
- Secure grant funding for further upgrades to the Braidwood Recreation Ground (including provision of skate park), the Araluen Campground and Nerriga Sports and Recreation Ground

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.

I supported the Mayors Notice of Motion (subsequent to an information report to Council) to undertake this important review given the significant impact to the Braidwood community in moving to Stage 4 water restrictions back in January 2020.

If elected, our team will request the report back to the newly elected Council as matter of priority, ensuring a comprehensive research analysis of potential storage alternatives or augmenting current supply, securing water supply when the community needs it the most i.e. 2019/2020

4. Environmental enhancement - e.g. 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.

Our team is committed to a clean, green community that cherishes its natural and physical character. If elected, we would consider the environmental impacts of future developments, our natural landscapes and water resources are sustainably managed. We support the continuation of the 10,000 tree planting program initiated under the former Queanbeyan City Council and adopted by the newly formed Queanbeyan-Palerang Council.

Braidwood is dynamic and a thriving place which attracts economic activity. If elected, our team will continue the ongoing revitalisation of Braidwood's town centre and green spaces (parks and rivers) with open public spaces curated with streetscapes, lighting and landscaping sympathetic to the town heritage and architectural themes.

5. Preservation of Braidwood's heritage - More funding to maintain heritage buildings. Full and consistent application of the Braidwood Development Control Plan 2006.

The Braidwood community has a diverse and active cultural environment in which we should all take pride in its rich heritage. If elected, our team is committed in continuing to protect Braidwood's high quality heritage environment while allowing for sympathetic growth. Strong compliance and adherence to the Braidwood DCP 2006 is critical whilst also measuring and testing the DCP for improvement where or if required.

With proven strong stakeholder engagement, we will advocate to the NSW Government for Braidwood special heritage funding highlighting and leveraging off the rich built heritage to encourage tourism and supporting business.

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

Residential Braidwood has seen an overall reduction -1.22% in the average or Typical Residential Bill (TRB) through the harmonisation process subsequent to the former Queanbeyan City Council (QCC) and Palerang Council merger.

This is a complex issue and each tariff (Water, Sewer and Waste) structure for each scheme needs to be critically addressed independently noting that many parts of our LGA have specific or unique requirements with a one size does not fit all. The current elected Council had the onerous responsibility to achieve a baseline subsequent to the 2016 merger assessing the schemes which can reasonably sustain the level of expenditure, both capital and operational, for the immediately foreseeable planning period (10 years). However it is mine and my teams view that further work and a critical analysis on each tariff for 'Residential Braidwood' category is required noting the significant increase to this category (Water, Sewer and Waste).

- If elected, our team will request a review of the Water Charges for this category, in particular Non-Revenue Water (NRW). The financial model forecast demonstrated

that the water tariff structure for 2021/2022 needs to be set to raise a total revenue of \$3.49 million pa to sustain a level of expenditure with an adopted lower average residential water consumption applied across the LGA.

- However given the current challenges in securing Braidwood's water supply (as discussed in point 3 above), accounting for NRW across this category as a means of risk management and in an effort to guard against revenue reductions that could result from the extremes of continued drought/water restrictions.
- In an effort in addressing and resolving point 3 above, securing Braidwood's water supply will influence and reduce the risk mitigation of revenue loss, realigning/increasing the average forecasted residential consumption with a view to lower the tariff for the category.

Further elaboration:

Just for clarity, current Council has approved >\$200m of capital works detailed in the *Operational Plan 2021-22* [Budgets and Planning - Queanbeyan-Palerang \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) albeit through Council budget or grant funding. Section 13. page 34 provides Financial Overview - Capital Works Program 2021-22 which captures the program of works for Braidwood and its region.

It is critical for the next term of Council that these major works and projects are delivered within budget and on schedule to the community. We have seen over the course of the current term, significant impacts to the schedule of works due to natural disasters and a global pandemic, requiring the current Council to navigate a way through to achieve the outcomes.

Given the financial implications, and that the next term of Council is only 2 ½ years, it would be prudent not to over promise and underdeliver, but to deliver what has been promised.

- Therefore, our focus is to deliver major works and projects with funding already secured i.e. Lascelles Street upgrade Braidwood, and advocate to secure funding for un-funded major work and projects. Major works and projects can be found [Major Works & Projects - Queanbeyan-Palerang \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Nerriga Road (Project id#102064 Financial Overview - Capital Works Program 2021-22) [MR92 - Nerriga Road - Queanbeyan-Palerang \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

John MANGOS (GROUP H - INDEPENDENT)

No reply by the due date requested.

Louise BURTON (GROUP I - LIBERALS)

No reply by the due date requested.

Bryce WILSON (GROUP J - LABOR)

Answer provided by John Preston

Many thanks indeed for helping us to understand the priorities for an in-coming new council that we hope to deliver in December.

As one of the two non-Queanbeyan, Jerrabomberra or Googong representatives on the Labor Group J ticket, Bryce has asked me to respond on our behalf. I am a Bungendore resident of over 25 years and our villages share many of the same priorities and issues.

One of our core beliefs as Labor members is that consultation with the community should be a priority and a foundational part of our duties as your representatives on council. The work you have done to produce this list of priorities would mirror our approach to community consultation and it will certainly help us to hit the ground running come December.

There is much to support in the list of priorities uncovered by your survey and I would like to touch briefly on a couple of them in particular that the QPRC Labor ticket understands from both this survey and other discussions we have had in the regional areas of the Local Government Area (LGA) in recent weeks:

The maintenance of roads, particularly unsealed roads, in the LGA is one such issue. A detailed and transparent plan to address this issue is required and should be a priority for the council. The safety and amenity of people on the roads in our LGA must be a priority.

Long-term strategic planning across the LGA, but particularly for the smaller regional centres is imperative. A considered and sustainable strategic plan will address a number of the other issues you raise including road maintenance, future development issues, water supply, heritage and, importantly from our perspective, environmental enhancement and climate action opportunities.

Another priority for the in-coming council is to properly understand the financial position of QPRC and to determine how the council can look to generate alternative revenue streams from sources other than rates and charges. On the new council we will need to work harder with State and Federal representatives to secure funding and partner with the other levels of government to deliver services where they are needed across the region.

The QPRC Labor team looks forward to working with the Braidwood Community Association and with the broader Braidwood community to deliver on the priorities that you have identified and others that will arise from further consultation with the community. The QPRC Labor team is committed to on-going and frequent consultation across the LGA.

Thank you for the work that you have done to identify these priorities and the work that the BCA continues to do for the community.

Bill WATERHOUSE (UNGROUPEd)

As I strongly stated at the recent BCA Committee meeting, I am firmly committed to helping build a council more responsive to the wishes of the community. Your survey is the perfect means for doing so and I believe I said so at the meeting.

Rest assured, I am committed to the 6 main items resulting from the survey as being the most important issues for folks in this area. Everyone I have spoken to over the last little while raise these as important issues. They also mention the delays when trying to get anything at all done through council and the lack of quality communication.

With respect, I do warn of budget restraints which will have been placed upon the new council by the outgoing one but hopefully, they (or perhaps we) can navigate the way through those financial issues.

I also note that essentially items 2 and 5 are somewhat entwined with each other and that item 4 is also connected. They are all connected to creating a clearer and unified 'Vision' for the area, grounded in quality consultation and effective data collection.

Might I add that I am a strong supporter of the various festivals on offer in the area and would love to see the Heritage Festival reincarnated in some way and look forward to the 'reignited' Two Fires and the Majors Creek Music Festival. I also believe council can play a part in promoting the Equine- related carnivals and indeed the "Machine Show" all of which bring visitors and added wealth to the area.

I also note that the BAVBC has a great similarity of issues raised in their recent letter to council and the community and I will be supporting those ideas as well. I am sure you and your committee have noticed the same overlap that I have noted and the valuable other ideas put forward.

Kyol BOOTH-HUNT (UNGROUPED)

No reply by the due date requested.

James HOLGATE (UNGROUPED)

Thank you for the opportunity to endorse the priority projects as outlined in the results of your recent survey, including the 'top 6' relating to roads, strategic planning, water supply, environment, Braidwoods' heritage and QPRC rates harmonisation.

Naturally I will seek to deliver all of these very worthwhile projects in accordance with funding constraints of the council and in a way that balances competing priorities across the QPRC Local Government Area.

I acknowledge there are reasonable concerns that the council may be 'Queanbeyan focussed' and I will diligently consider recent and ongoing projects that ensures equity and fairness for all communities across the LGA. All projects must be affordable, environmentally responsible and deliver results.

I support the projects outlined subject to responsible and equitable allocation of resources.

Ginevra PEISLEY (UNGROUPED)

I would be very pleased to provide my in principle support to Braidwood's priority projects as part of my campaign platform as an independent councillor in the upcoming Queanbeyan Palerang Council elections.

Living in a rural area myself I am aware of a number of inequities in the delivery of services and lack of investment in the maintenance of basic rural community facilities across our region.

Dear

I am writing to you as a candidate Councillor for the upcoming QPRC elections on behalf of the Braidwood Community as President of the Braidwood Community Association (BCA).

Since March this year, the BCA has been engaging with our local community to determine what are our priorities for new projects for Braidwood and district which we want the new Council to pursue.

This followed a thorough three-step process involving a survey of residents seeking ideas; consolidating the ideas; and a further survey of residents to prioritise the ideas. The survey results are attached with the top six projects we want on the Council's agenda being:

1. Better maintenance of unsealed roads - Fully meet maintenance schedule and more transparency and communication of schedule.
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.
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. 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.
5. Preservation of Braidwood's heritage - More funding to maintain heritage buildings. Full and consistent application of the Braidwood Development Control Plan 2006.
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.

I would like to invite you and your ticket to endorse this list and commit to pursuing these issues over the life of the next Council should you and/or anyone from your ticket be elected as a Councillor.

Please be aware that the BCA as a non-partisan organisation will not be endorsing any particular candidate or ticket. However, we will give transparency on those who have committed to progressing the Braidwood community's priority projects and those who have not. This will be done through the local media and our email list and you will also have an opportunity make a statement at the forthcoming 'meet the candidates' meeting in Braidwood on 9 November to which you have been invited. We will then leave it up to voters to decide who they want to vote for.

I look forward to your response, which we would like in writing please.