



# BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2025**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024-25**

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.

Since our last AGM in September 2024, the BCA has continued to provide a public forum to discuss issues affecting the communities of Braidwood and District. We have worked with other community groups to strengthen local community capacity and achieve positive outcomes for the community.

In September last year, a new Council was elected, and we welcomed the election our local Councillor, Bill Waterhouse. Bill has attended most of our open meetings and keeps us informed about Council discussions and decisions that affect our community. Our sincere thanks go to Bill for his interest in the work of the BCA, and his hard work representing the whole community, including the villages.

The BCA has continued to engage with Councillors and staff to advocate for the interests and priorities of our residents. We have attended Council meetings to speak on matters affecting the community, and written submissions in response to Council and other consultations. We have represented the community in meetings, workshops and Council committees and working groups, and reached out to service providers to try to improve services for Braidwood residents.

Councillors and QPRC staff are often invited to attend our meetings. We thank all those who have accepted and made the journey to Braidwood to hear our concerns and answer our questions. We also thank the Councillors and staff who answer our emails and sometimes meet with us for one-on-one conversations.

### **BCA Submissions:**

The BCA has provided written submissions on Council plans, strategies and issues papers. These include:

- The QPRC Community Strategic Plan (2025 Revision)
- Draft Braidwood Structure Plan
- QPRC Integrated Plans 2025-26
- Palerang Communities Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Issues Paper 2025

We also made a submission on the *Transport for NSW Report on Braidwood Traffic and Transport Issues*.

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

Grateful thanks once again to John Tuckwell for his invaluable work as chief submission writer and website manager.

### **Local Issues and Priorities**

The BCA conducted a survey of residents' priorities before the Council election last year. The survey results provide a guide to the issues and concerns we focus on in our work for the community. The top 6 priorities in 2024 were:

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

**Rural Roads:** The BCA has consistently advocated for more funding and better maintenance for rural roads. We invited the new Director of Infrastructure Services, Mike Duff, to our meeting in October 2024. Mike outlined improvements to funding for the road maintenance teams and provided detailed updates on plans for future roadworks. Bill Waterhouse has also kept us informed about these very important matters.

**Draft Braidwood Structure Plan:** Submissions closed in March 2025. The BCA submission is on our website.

**Water Security:** We have followed this issue closely with Council and will continue to do so. Council received a very substantial and technical report prepared by NSW Public Works in June 2025. (*Palerang Communities Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Issues Paper 2025*). The BCA response written by John Tuckwell is on our website.

**Community Transport:** The BCA has raised the issue of inadequate public and community transport for our residents with all levels of Govt. We created a brochure with all the current transport options to and from Braidwood for distribution to our community. Thanks to Committee members Trish Sargeson and Judy van Rijswijk for all their work on this. We will continue to follow up on this issue.

**Town and villages environment:** The BCA continues to advocate for more tree planting in Braidwood, as part of the QPRC Urban Forest Strategy.

**Harmonisation of water, sewer and waste charges across the LGA.** QPRC are reviewing their Waste Strategy and have recently conducted extensive community consultation. Water and Sewer charges vary across the LGA as there are separate systems and funds for the former Queanbeyan and Palerang areas. The BCA will continue to monitor these charges.

**Affordable Housing:** Sue Murray and Sarah Leheny represent Braidwood on the QPRC Affordable Housing Group and attend regular meetings with Council staff.

**Seniors Services:** We have worked closely with the QPRC Community Development Team to provide information and services for Seniors eg helping to organise a Seniors Expo in March 2025, and engaging speakers from service providers to attend the monthly First Thursday Lunch (FTL) at the Club. QPRC community team members regularly attend the FTL. The BCA has received a QPRC community grant to help fund the FTL Christmas lunch and will also donate \$500 towards this event.

**Heritage:** We worked with the BAVBC (Braidwood Business Chamber) to obtain a grant from Heritage NSW for the creation of a Braidwood Heritage Interpretation Plan. This is one of the recommendations from the 15 Year Review of the Braidwood State Heritage Listing. GML Heritage have been engaged to conduct this project. QPRC have provided matching funding.

**Medical services:** Cathie Owen represents the BCA on the MPS Community Consultative Committee.

**Development of 88 Wallace Street and carpark:** The BCA argued for more community consultation on the draft designs for this site, resulting in a Your Voice consultation, currently open until 29th September. QPRC were invited to send a representative of the project team to our open meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> and we thank Elise from QPRC for her attendance.

**QPRC Community Christmas celebrations:** The BCA has a representative on the group helping Council event planners prepare for this annual event.

**Roads, footpaths, traffic issues in town.** These are ongoing issues which we will continue to monitor. TfNSW released an Action Plan for Braidwood and Bungendore in February 2025.

### **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 have taken a genuine interest in our local communities and consulted with us about local issues and projects.
- QPRC General Manager Rebecca Ryan for her active interest and involvement in our community issues.
- 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 2024-25 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 6 years. We look forward to another year of working with all levels of Government and local residents and organisations to enhance the well-being and sustainability of our community.

Sue Murray  
President,  
Braidwood Community Association

23 September 2025