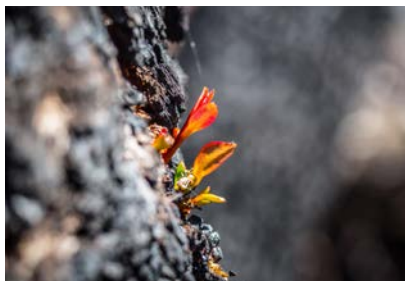


Bushfire recovery and assistance

Many areas of Queanbeyan-Palerang have experienced a summer of bushfire, with homes, outbuildings, equipment and business income lost. Recent impact assessment figures show that there were 56 houses, 4 facilities and 148 outbuildings destroyed, along with 16 houses, 3 facilities and 51 outbuildings damaged in Queanbeyan-Palerang. There will be an ongoing recovery for many in our community.



The Australian Government and NSW Government have a number of measures to assist in the recovery. The NSW Government has established Service NSW as the point of call for bushfire assistance. Service NSW will guide affected people through the available assistance from all levels of government. Service NSW can be contacted on 13 77 88. For more information, visit www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/bushfire-customer-care-service

On 20 January, we opened the Bushfire Recovery Centre in the Braidwood Meeting Room (Old Library) on Park Lane, with Council staff on hand to assist residents navigate through the various support measures in place. Residents can contact the Bushfire Recovery Centre on 6285 6789 or via email at recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au

We made an initial donation of \$10,000 to the Braidwood Community Help Fund, which will be distributed to families affected by drought and bushfires and support the work of BlazeAid. Council also decided to cancel the fireworks that were planned for Australia Day celebrations in Queanbeyan and donated \$5,000 from this to the help fund. Further information on drought and bushfire assistance is available at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/bushfire-and-drought-assistance

The Federal Government provided \$1m to councils to assist in bushfire recovery. This is being used to offset assistance measures such as waiving the hire fees of the Braidwood Showground for the duration of the BlazeAid operation, subsidising private works in relation to dam clearing, waste disposal, development application and inspection fees and rates rebates. Council has appointed a bushfire recovery coordinator, an economic development officer, and a community development officer to assist in the recovery, work with affected businesses, and build resilience in the community. This funding will also be used to fit out the recovery centre and for repairs to the Braidwood evacuation centre and recovery camp, and provide financial support to local wildlife recovery groups, with the balance held for infrastructure repairs.

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Queanbeyan River Walk extension



We've extended the Queanbeyan River Walk through the caravan park and have recently been working on extending the shared path on the other side of the river to the suspension bridge. This will mean there is a wide shared path, perfect for walking prams and riding bikes, all the way to the new shared path bridge near Morisset Street. We expect the caravan park to reopen under new management in April.

We will continue the river walk along the river, with a 350m section that includes a bridge over Barracks Creek planned for later in 2020.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, TIM OVERALL

I'd like to give my sincere appreciation to all the fire fighters, volunteers, NSW Rural Fire Service and other emergency services along with the Council staff who worked so hard to protect lives and property over the summer. For many, this has been a stressful and fearful period. It has been heartening to see our strong and resilient communities coming together in my visits around the region.

Local government elections will be held this year, on 12 September 2020. In QPRC, this election will include a referendum on whether QPRC should have a directly elected mayor, or a mayor who is elected by councillors. More information about this will be available as we move closer to the elections.



Follow us on social media



Sign up for our weekly e-News at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au



Have your say at yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au

Road grading resumed



In early December, we suspended maintenance grading on many of our unsealed roads due to a lack of water. Grading a typical 1km section of road uses between 30,000 and 40,000 litres of water and the water wasn't available.

Council's graders and staff were then heavily involved in building containment lines as part of bushfire fighting efforts. Maintenance grading resumed in mid February, with rainfall topping up water supplies and fires extinguished or contained.

We are focusing on the roads that carry a higher volume of traffic and have been prioritised as requiring attention. Following an initial block of works, we hope to return to our regular maintenance grading. We publish our regular grading schedule on our website at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/services/roads-and-footpaths

Mick Sherd Oval change rooms



The new change rooms at Mick Sherd Oval in Bungendore are complete and ready for the winter season. The new facility includes two large change rooms, six showers, four toilets, two strapping rooms and an all-abilities bathroom. This project was funded by the NSW Government under the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

The building was designed to complement the existing facilities building. This ties in well with the work we have done to restore the playing surface, with a new irrigation system installed last year and a lot of work done on the field over the summer.

Let's get rid of illegal dumping

We are encouraging residents to report illegal dumping via RIDonline. Go to ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au to make a report. If possible, take some photos of the dumped waste, and upload when making the report. Include as much information as possible especially on the location and description of the waste. If a vehicle was seen dumping items record the registration plate number and the make of car as this information will assist Council in the investigation of the incident.



RIDonline is used by local councils and the NSW EPA to manage illegal dumping. Since its release in 2015, more than 40,000 cases have been reported.

Dumped waste can contaminate and degrade land, plant and animal habitats and pollute waterways. It can also pose a fire risk. Dumped waste can affect our health especially if it contains chemicals or asbestos and it makes public places unsightly.

Easily recycled resources, like whitegoods, mattresses, tyres and green waste are lost when they are dumped. Clean up is expensive and it undermines legitimate recycling, with resources diverted to deal with the issue.

Dumping waste on the kerbside or around charitable recyclers is illegal. Research from the NSW EPA shows that household waste makes up 47% of illegally dumped waste in NSW, followed by green waste, construction and demolition waste, and tyres.

Please contact Council for information on how you can legally dispose of waste. Illegal dumping will incur fines of at least \$4,000.

For emergency incidents such as toxic fumes or a large chemical spill, residents should call 000. For large urgent incidents, you can call the EPA Environment Line on 131 555.

New sporting amenities

A new amenities block was recently craned into place at the High Street Playing Fields, Queanbeyan East. This project was funded by the NSW Government under the Stronger Country Communities Fund.



A similar facility was also installed at Margaret Donoghoe Oval, Karabar.

Did you know your Library card is for more than books?

Library cards get you access to a world of books at your local library branch, but they also open up a universe of information databases through eResources. The two latest additions to the range are Mango Languages and Haynes Manuals. Mango Languages has over 70 languages available and English classes in more than 20 languages. Haynes Manuals is a library of manuals covering a vast range of car and motorcycle makes and models, with up-to-date content including common repairs, routine maintenance and servicing procedures.



New resource: Haynes Manuals

Other eResources include academic titles, Carter's Price Guide to Antiques, collections of eBooks, audiobooks and digital magazines, the History Reference Centre and much more. Go to the Library's website library.qprc.nsw.gov.au or call the Library on 6285 6255 if you need assistance logging in.

Heritage Festival

The Queanbeyan-Palerang Heritage Festival is part of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival, with events in the ACT and across the region. In 2020, the theme for the Heritage Festival is reIMAGINE. Over 150 diverse events will take place across the region between April and May.



Thrown out - 1927 Queanbeyan Cash Book

One of the local events is "Streets then and now" which will be on display at the local libraries in Braidwood, Bungendore and Queanbeyan from 4 April - 4 May. Have you ever wondered what the streets looked like 20, 50 or 100 years ago? See a selection of streets in our region with early images next to current ones.

On 18 April from 1-3pm, join us at the Queanbeyan Library for "Treasures from the tip: Declutter! Purge! Downsize! Marie Kondo!" and hear from experts about curious, surprising and shocking items discarded at the tip.

Find all the events in the Canberra region at www.act.gov.au/heritagefestival

Tech Time classes



Our tech savvy library staff are running some free technology classes, perfect for seniors, at all our branches. The first event was on 2 March at Braidwood Library and the last is on 27 April. Classes include introductions to computers, internet, email, iPads, Android tablets, smartphones, e-library and online shopping. If you're new to the online world or you've recently got a new device and need some help, these are the perfect classes for you.

You can find the event details on the library's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/QueanbeyanPalrangLibraries) or give the friendly library staff a call on 6285 6255 (Queanbeyan), 6238 0784 (Bungendore) or 4842 2091 (Braidwood).

Rates harmonisation... have your say

We are required to harmonise the two former council rating structures that are currently in place. This will mean that one rating structure will apply across all of QPRC. As part of this process, we put together a Community Reference Panel to provide feedback and advice to Council in the development of the rating options.



The panel had representatives from around the Council area, as well as from different rating categories (business, farmland, residential). We held panel workshops and small groups to review and discuss the rate structure options.

The Community Reference Panel recommended a rate structure that was presented to Council at the February meeting. Now we want the community to have their say on the rate structure.

If you are not already registered on our Your Voice page, make sure you register so that you can contribute to the discussion about the rate structure. Go to yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au. Information will also be available at our customer service centres.

New shade sails



Shade sail support poles at Moore Park

We have recently been installing shade sails at Moore Park, Ray Morton Park and Sister City Park in Queanbeyan. We know that shade at our parks and playgrounds is highly valued by our community and we continue to install shade sails and plant trees.

Development application lodged for Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct



The development application for the Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct has been lodged. This development will be independently determined by the Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel.

The development application and related documents are publicly available online and at Council's Queanbeyan customer service centre. Submissions are open until 17 March.



Zero to 100 program

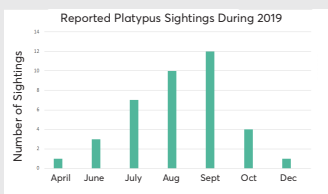
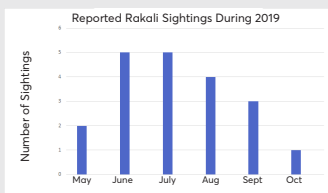
Thanks to all the local high school students and teachers who have been attending the Axis Youth Centre's Zero to 100 program at the local schools. The team run the program before school at Braidwood Central School on Tuesdays, Queanbeyan High on Wednesdays and Karabar High School on Thursdays. Each program finishes with a breakfast to give the students and teachers energy for the school day.

2019 Platypus & Rakali monitoring program results

Thirty-eight platypus sightings and 20 rakali sightings were reported during 2019 between April - December, an 81% increase from 2018.



Photo by Buddy Holley

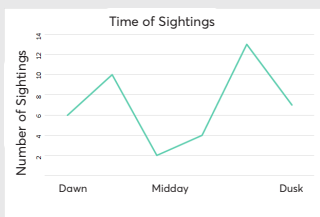


Annual permits for restricted dogs and non-de-sexed cats

The grace period for annual permits for owners of non-de-sexed cats and dangerous or restricted dogs will end on 30 June. From 1 July, owners of cats that are not de-sexed by four months of age will have to pay an \$80 annual permit, while owners of dogs of restricted breed or declared dangerous will have to pay a \$195 annual permit.

The NSW Government has implemented these changes to create a stronger incentive to de-sex cats, improve health and wellbeing of pets, lower demand on animal facilities, reduce euthanasia rates, and help address concerns about feral, stray and roaming cats.

For more information, go to www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/dogs-and-cats/responsible-pet-ownership-program



Most sightings occurred just after dawn or right before dusk.

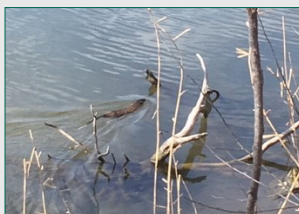
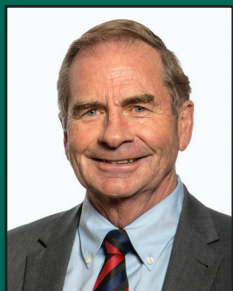


Photo by Mel Smith

In 2020, you can help by reporting time, date, location and health via: platypus@qprc.nsw.gov.au

Report Locations: **Queanbeyan River** **Monkittee Creek** **Mulloon Creek**

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS



Mayor
Cr Tim Overall
6285 6223
0410 530 681

Email addresses can be found at:
www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/councillors



Deputy Mayor
Cr Trudy Taylor
0404 009 679



Cr Michele Biscotti
0438 949 599



Cr Peter Bray AM
0425 325 779



Cr Brian Brown
0414 721 291



Cr Pete Harrison
6238 3640



Cr Trevor Hicks
0438 685 738



Cr Peter Marshall
0428 597 227



Cr Radmila Noveska
0459 857 757



Cr Mark Schweikert
0418 904 827



Cr Kenrick Winchester
0438 356 013



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