

Assistance during COVID-19

We have implemented a range of strategies to assist residents, businesses and community organisations with the financial impacts of COVID-19. For residents and ratepayers these strategies include:

- A modified application process for hardship relief to residential and business ratepayers. That same relief continues to apply for farmland rate properties as a consequence of the drought, and other properties damaged or destroyed by bushfires.
- Relief options such as deferral of rate instalments and extending regular rate payments over two years, and the waiver of interest charges, under approved payment plans. The NSW Government is covering the full cost of third and fourth quarter council rates for people who lost their homes and small businesses in the bushfires for this financial year.
- Defer the proposed Bungendore and Braidwood stormwater levy (\$20 per year) and associated works until 2021.
- Work with local service providers for a coordinated COVID neighbourhood program in support of vulnerable members of the community to assist drop-offs, call ins and the like.
- Defer the forthcoming increase in Councillor and Mayor fees.

For businesses and community organisations:

- Waive or defer rents for commercial operators leasing council property who can demonstrate financial distress due to COVID-19, in line with Commonwealth/ State Government codes.
- Continue to waive footpath and related fees for businesses.
- Continue to provide online business planning, marketing and other support to local businesses.
- Defer the Bungendore-Braidwood Treasure Trail tourism campaign until residents and visitors are permitted to travel freely.
- Defer developer contributions for commercial development applications in the recovery period.

Council is also advocating to the State and Federal Governments for financial assistance, including additional Financial Assistance Grants, eligibility for the Federal JobKeeper Program, relaxation of development contribution reserve restrictions and drought and bushfire recovery payments.



The Treasure Trail will support businesses once travel is open

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2020-21 plans and budget open for comment



Mick Sherd changerooms project complete from Operational Plan 2019-20

Council's draft Operational Plan, Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges for 2020-21 are now open for comment from 24 April until 1 June.

The Operational Plan sets out the budget for specific activities and projects that Council will undertake within each financial year. The Revenue Policy sets the rating structure and waste, water and sewer fees for the financial year, while the Fees and Charges looks at what we charge for specific services and facilities.

Council's plans are designed to meet the community's vision and long-term aspirations and the community's voice is important. Go to **yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au** to make a comment or submission.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, TIM OVERALL

We have certainly been through a difficult time in recent months, with the impact of bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. While some Council services have been impacted by COVID-19, essential services have continued with appropriate safeguards in place. Work on playgrounds and sportsfields, planning and development assessment, waste collection, water and sewer work, council meetings, road maintenance and road construction have all continued.

Our major road construction projects, the Ellerton Drive extension, Old Cooma Road duplication and the upgrade and sealing of Nerriga Road, are all progressing well. We will soon see work beginning on the new roundabout in Bungendore on the Kings Highway and the upgrade of the Burra Road "s" bends.



Local government elections postponed



The Minister for Local Government announced that the September 2020 local government elections will be postponed for 12 months to address the risks posed by the COVID-19 virus. Our current 11 councillors will remain in office until September 2021.

Queanbeyan Showground Grandstand restoration



The internal timber floor of the grandstand at the Queanbeyan Showground has recently been restored as part of the Showground Grandstand project, funded by the NSW Stronger Communities Fund. The project has included the restoration of the grandstand roof and seating area and work on the internal floors as pictured. The upgrades have improved safety, preserved a piece of local heritage and will allow improved events at the Showground.

Ellerton Drive extension



The Ellerton Drive extension is expected to open mid-2020, weather permitting. Work on the bridge has reached a significant milestone with all nine bridge segments now launched across the Queanbeyan River. Work is continuing to complete the bridge deck, install barriers and railings on the bridge and construct the road approaches.

\$10m support for Monaro Street transformation

The 2019 Queanbeyan CBD Spatial Master Plan was widely supported by the community when we sought comments last year. The spatial master plan aims to revitalise and transform the CBD over the next decade. The NSW Government recently announced a \$10 million contribution toward one of the stages of the major project - the revitalisation of Monaro Street between Crawford and Lowe Streets.



This project will follow on from recent works that have included the extension of the river walk, the new pedestrian and cyclist bridge, smart city infrastructure, the refurbishment of the Riverside Tourist Park and planning for the new Civic and Cultural Precinct. The Monaro Street stage was originally planned as a future stage, but has been brought forward due to this investment from the NSW Government.

While the master plan includes some indicative improvements, further planning and consultation will be undertaken before we're ready to start construction. For more information on the master plan, go to: yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/queanbeyan-cbd-spatial-master-plan

Bungendore roundabout

The "Give Way" intersection of Malbon Street and Molonglo Street in Bungendore experiences significant traffic congestion, particularly during holiday periods. In order to address this issue, Council will install a roundabout at the intersection to reduce congestion and improve safety for all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians.



Grant funding has been received from Transport for NSW under the "Monaro Palerang Program".

At time of writing, early works including utility relocations and installations are planned to begin after ANZAC Day. Pavement works should be complete by the September school holidays and the roundabout fully complete by the end of November 2020.

When does your dog need to be on a lead?

Under the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998, a dog that is in a public place must be under the effective control of a competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person. The only time a dog may be off-lead when in a public place is when you are in a declared off-lead area.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, these off-lead areas have been declared closed to prevent people from gathering in groups and potentially spreading the virus. There are nine dog off-lead areas in QPRC. This list, and information about your responsibilities as a animal owner, can be found on our website at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Animals

Road safety award

We recently won the Local Government Initiative at the 9th Annual Australian Road Safety Awards for our "Safe Systems Speed Project for Local Roads". We redesigned our community speed education from a reactive program to a proactive evidence-based approach that targets identified issues on the road network.



Speed trailer deployed on Atkinson St, Qbn

Integrating safe systems into the project was key to the redesign. Safe systems is an approach that moves from blaming the driver for a crash and takes a systematic approach to reducing risk. The approach aims to build safety through a whole-of-system approach where everyone, and each factor in the system, has a role to play. There are four pillars in the safe system – safer roads, safer people, safer vehicles and safer speeds. Engineering treatments are part of the safer roads pillar, education and enforcement are part of the safer people pillar, speed reductions are in the safer speeds pillar and adjustments for type of vehicles are in the safer vehicles pillar.

The safer systems approach has been implemented alongside community engagement and stakeholder involvement. We have had a great response from the community including schools and preschools about the speed trailer and involvement of important stakeholders like the NSW Police and bus operators.



Speed trailer deployed on Nerriga Road

We use an evidence-based process to identify sites for courtesy speed checks, collect data to evaluate the results and apply the safe systems approach to assess and treat speed locations.

Results have consistently achieved reduction in 85th speed percentiles on urban roads. The 85th speed percentile refers to the speed that 85% of drivers will travel at or below under normal free-flowing traffic and is a good indication of how drivers experience the road conditions. The program is also run on local country roads where speed has been identified as a contributing factor in 59% of fatality and serious injury crashes.

Turn food scraps into compost

International Composting Awareness Week was 3-9 May 2020. Approximately 50% of the rubbish Australians put in the everyday mixed-waste garbage bin could be put to better use in the garden as compost and mulch.



By turning food scraps and organic garden waste into compost you can:

- Improve soil quality and garden vitality.
- Suppress plant diseases and pests.
- Reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill.
- Help soils retain moisture.
- Help absorb and filter runoff.

What to add in your compost bin

Vegetable and fruit scraps, vegetable oil, prunings and lawn clippings, tea bags and coffee, grounds, vacuum dust, shredded paper and cardboard, used potting mix, egg shells, flowers.

What not to add in your compost bin

Meat and bones, dairy products, diseased plants, metals, plastic and glass, animal manures, fat, magazines, large branches, weeds that have seeds or underground stems, sawdust from treated timber, pet droppings, and synthetic chemicals.

Recycled asphalt trial



Council has been working with PEET in Googong to trial the use of a recycled road surface. The first trial was the new netball facility car park which used 58,824 glass bottles, 294,737 plastic bags and 7,200 toner cartridges within its mixture. The car park will serve as a test for the product in the hope that it can be used more widely on local roads and car parks.

New park equipment



Upgrade in progress at Ernie Beaver Park

We have recently been working on an upgrade of the playground equipment at Ernie Beaver Park, Queanbeyan West. Once the upgrade is complete, we plan to upgrade the playground at Esmond Avenue Park in Jerrabomberra. This is something for locals to look forward to when life returns to some normality.



Need help during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Phone: 1300 735 025
(select Option 2 for COVID support)

or email us at:
covid@qprc.nsw.gov.au

COVID Kindness

COVID Kindness

Times are tough right now. We can put you in touch with services that can help during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have access to services and groups who can help with:

- collecting food, medication and other supplies
- ideas for activities for fitness or for children
- concerns you might have about friends, family or neighbours
- a friendly chat about any worries you have

Let us know how we can help you by emailing us at: covid@qprc.nsw.gov.au or phone 1300 735 025 (select Option 2 for COVID support).



Riverside Tourist Park

You can see the progress on the refurbishment of the Riverside Tourist Park from some recent aerial imagery. Works that have been completed include:

- New water and sewer infrastructure including a new water main into the property
- New electrical infrastructure
- New vehicle entry (the old entry/exit will now be exit only)
- Realignment of internal roadways, new curbing and resealing
- New turf and irrigation around BBQ area
- New turf, trees and hardstand areas for van sites
- New heat pump hot water systems
- New LED lighting and solar panels to the amenities area
- New solar street lighting

At time of writing, work was underway to install communication cabling for Wi-Fi, security and the boom gates. We are working to finalise the lease agreement with the potential operator of the park. There are currently restrictions on caravan parks due to COVID-19.



Weeds identification training

Council staff attended an interactive workshop with Queanbeyan Landcare on 6 March which provided an introduction to native plant and invasive weeds identification.

Staff met Queanbeyan Landcare at Mt Jerrabomberra for a toolbox discussion and then took a 3.5km hike to observe local native flora.

Queanbeyan Landcare highlighted native trees, weeds and plants on the two-hour hike, while staff were able to pick their brains about identification techniques, what Council can be doing to improve the local native species and how to incorporate them into our plantings.

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