

## Service centres reopened

Based on the National Cabinet Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia, we've developed plans to reopen our services and facilities as restrictions are eased. Some of these COVIDSafe plans have been implemented, as our customer centres, libraries and Animal Management Facility reopened from Monday 1 June. Distancing markers and protection screens have been installed and no cash payments are being accepted. In Queanbeyan, the customer centre has been moved to The Q, as the most appropriate site where customers and staff will be able maintain physical distancing.



Customer centre now at The Q

Council continues to follow the directions of the state and federal governments in regard to restrictions due to COVID-19. As these restrictions are regularly changing, we encourage the community to stay up to date with Council service restrictions or changes via our website at [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/COVID-19-Coronavirus](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/COVID-19-Coronavirus)

## Braidwood Pool refurbishment and future plans

The refurbishment of the Braidwood Pool is progressing well. A significant leak was found in the pool's original expansion joint system. The main pool and wading pool underwent a hydrostatic test which involves filling the pool with water and comparing losses from evaporation and inflows from rain against a control for a certain period. After this, the pool could be drained, and prepared for membranes and final tile installation.



Pool undergoing hydrostatic test

We've completed all the pipework for the filtered water system, as well as the water proofing expansion joint and cement rendering. We've also completed the handrail fixings, lane rope holders and the shade structure over the wading pool. This project was funded by \$400,000 through the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund and additional Council funding.

The NSW Government has announced \$1m for the Braidwood Pool under the Stronger Country Communities Fund. We are using this funding to undertake further upgrades, including installing a solar water heater, improving the change rooms and the kiosk. We are also seeking comments from the public on future upgrades to the pool. Go to [yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au) to view the plans and comment before 3 July.

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## Draft Local Environmental Plan



Council has prepared a draft Local Environmental Plan (draft LEP 2020) to consolidate and harmonise the existing LEPs that applied in the former Queanbeyan City and Palerang local government areas.

There are currently seven LEPs which have been used to inform the development of the standards and local provisions in the draft plan. The draft LEP 2020 creates a consistent approach for land use planning across the Queanbeyan Palerang LGA.

The plan and supporting information are on public display until 30 June. During this time, staff are available to answer specific questions on the plan between 10am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm on 6285 6116. Go to [yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au) to view the plan and make a comment.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, TIM OVERALL

We held three online community meetings in May, due to the restrictions on public gatherings. While it was disappointing that we couldn't all gather together and have questions from the community in person, I want to thank those who participated in the meetings online and asked questions that way.

Even in the midst of this pandemic, Council's focus on bushfire recovery continues and our recovery committee and coordinators continue to work with impacted residents and businesses to help them in the long process of recovery. For anyone who feels that they have fallen through the gaps, I urge you to get in touch with the recovery team via 6285 6789 or [recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au)



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Have your say at [yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au)



## Crawford Street to be made safer



We've gained more than \$700,000 in Australian Government Black Spot Program funding for safety upgrades at two intersections on Crawford Street – one at Antill Street and the other at Campbell/Erin Streets.

The intersection of Crawford and Antill Streets will see a new set of traffic lights installed to better control the four-way intersection. The intersection of Crawford and Campbell/Erin Streets will see the installation of new medians and signage restricting right turns out of Campbell Street, and restricting right turns into or out of Erin Street. The upgrades will both include additional pedestrian facilities and provisions for cyclists.

Planning, design and consultation will take place in 2020-21 with construction expected to start in late 2021 and be completed by mid 2022.

## Safety improved at Henderson Road playground



Six multi-sensor CCTV cameras, effectively providing 21 cameras, have been installed at Railway Park at Crestwood. Five smart security lights have also been installed, which increase the usefulness of the CCTV cameras at night.

QPRC and Queanbeyan Police expect long-term benefits of this security infrastructure to include less danger to passengers and staff of NSW Rail; less complaints from NSW Rail; and increased safety and enjoyment of the park by local residents.

## Braidwood farmers helped with weed control

As the Beefing up Braidwood project comes to a close, we reflect on the benefits delivered to drought-affected farmers and the broader Braidwood community:

- Development of the Braidwood Grazing Industry Weed Management Plan to guide protection of this economic asset from weed impacts.
- Aerial photography covering the Braidwood grazing area, supplemented by higher-resolution imagery at key sites, to help map priority weeds.
- 47 properties covering 13,000ha assisted in mapping weeds and developing property weed management plans.
- Professional local agronomist advice provided for complex sites.
- Weed control support provided to implement property plans.
- Herbicides purchased from local suppliers.
- Weed control services contracted to local operators.
- Three project staff employed in Braidwood for 11 months.



The project has successfully achieved the objectives of the Australian Government's *Communities Combating Pests and Weeds During Drought Program*. Local community spending was stimulated with support to local businesses and suppliers. The long-term benefits will include improved viability of local farms and a more coordinated approach to managing the weeds that most impact on the local grazing industry.

## Googong Recycled Water

We have received the final approvals for delivering recycled water in Googong. Recycled water will soon be delivered via the purple pipes. Googong residents should keep an eye out for information and tips in your letter box about how you can use recycled water in your day-to-day life and things to be aware of.



The purple pipe network will help to drought-proof Googong by providing recycled water for public green spaces, residential lawns and gardens, and flushing of toilets. While all residents need to remember that the sewage system is just for the three Ps (poo, pee and toilet paper), this is especially important for the operation and ongoing costs of the Water Recycling Plant in Googong.

Go to [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/water-and-sewer](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/water-and-sewer) for more information.

## Nerriga Road Stage 3 underway

Council has begun preliminary work on Stage 3 of the Nerriga Road. This is a 3.1km section of the road that we call the Durran Durra section. It travels through the Durran Durra Range, between Brightside Road and Grants Road. We estimate that this is around 12 months of work, weather depending.



The Nerriga Road upgrade project involves upgrading four sections of the road, and has been funded by a \$70 million grant from the NSW Government under the Monaro-Palerang Roads Package.

The first two stages have been completed, stage 1 being a 5km section between Grants Road and Stewarts Crossing Road and stage 2 being a 3.1km section between Stewarts Crossing Road and the Charleyong Bridge. Transport for NSW has also completed construction of the new Charleyong Bridge.

Later in 2020, we expect to begin stage 4 of the project, which is the upgrade of the intersection of Nerriga Road with the Kings Highway.

Go to [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/MR92-Nerriga-Rd](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/MR92-Nerriga-Rd)

## South Jerrabomberra Northern Entry Road - Environa Drive

Construction of the South Jerrabomberra Northern Entry Road has commenced. The Northern Entry Road, to be called Environa Drive, will provide a link from Tomsitt Drive to the new South Jerrabomberra developments. Importantly, it unlocks the land for the South Jerrabomberra Innovation Precinct, the Regional Sports Complex, the future Jerrabomberra High School and the South Jerrabomberra residential estate.



Construction of the link road has been divided into three stages. Stage 3 is being delivered by Council thanks to a \$23 million grant from the NSW Government and up to \$8 million from Council. This stage goes from Tomsitt Drive to Jerrabomberra Creek and includes approximately 1km of new road, in-ground services (such as water, gas, sewer, telecommunications), on-road cycleways, off-road shared paths and landscaping. Work will also be carried out around David Madew Oval and Jerrabomberra Public School for sewer and shared path connections. Intermittent traffic delays are also expected at Jerrabomberra Circle and Tomsitt Drive. Stage 3 works are expected to be completed by early 2021.

In conjunction with Council's Stage 3 works, Northern Entry Road Stage 1 and 2 is being built by the South Jerrabomberra residential development. The developer has commenced Stage 1 works in the area of Jerrabomberra Creek at the site of the new bridge that will link with Council's Stage 3 works.

## Platypus breeding season

Platypus usually begin to breed around July, but in recent years we have seen some earlier activity in June. We keep track of platypus and rakali (water rat) sightings around the local government area and report to the Australian Platypus Conservancy. Most of our reports are from sightings in the Queanbeyan River, but if you notice activity anywhere else in the local government area, we'd also love to hear about it. Report time, date, location and any photos to [platypus@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:platypus@qprc.nsw.gov.au)



Previous early morning platypus walk

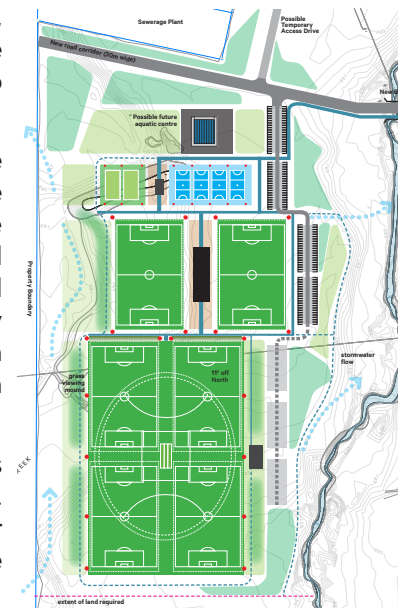
## Bungendore Sports Hub

We have completed all the initial design, survey work and detailed design for the initial stages of the Bungendore Sports Hub on Bungendore Road.

We are progressing the acquisition of the land and will soon be in position to fence out the subdivision and start doing some work on site. Once we have completed all the investigations, such as geotechnical and Aboriginal survey, we will be ready to start doing bulk earthworks as soon as a development application has been approved.

The project has been funded by grants received from the NSW Government. \$1,500,000 was received from the Stronger Communities Fund and \$950,000 from the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Find out more about this project and view the concept design in detail at [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/Bungendore-Sports-Hub](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/Bungendore-Sports-Hub)



## Reduce wood smoke air pollution

If you have a wood heater, there are some simple steps you can take to reduce the harmful effects of wood smoke. Smoke from wood heaters is a major cause of local air pollution. Not only is a smoking fire wasting your money, but the air pollution it causes can also affect our health, particularly for those with respiratory conditions like asthma.

Always burn small logs of aged, dry hardwood, store firewood under cover in a dry ventilated area; freshly cut wood needs to be stored for 8-12 months. Never burn rubbish, driftwood or painted/treated wood and stack wood loosely in the firebox so that air can circulate. Don't let your heater smoulder overnight by keeping enough air in the fire to maintain a flame and have a professional clean your chimney every year.



## First ever Visitors Guide

The arrival of the first ever regional visitors guide in Queanbeyan-Palerang's history marks an exciting moment as we continue to develop the region as a tourism destination.

The guide was regrettably delayed due to bushfires, followed by COVID-19 – making the first half of the year an extremely challenging time for business operators. The regional guide comes at a good time as restrictions are beginning to ease.

The guide has been distributed to a number of businesses. Businesses can request a delivery of visitors guides at: <https://investqueanbeyanpalerang.com.au/hot-off-the-press-visit-queanbeyan-palerang-visitors-guide/>



# Customer Satisfaction Survey



We conducted our biennial Customer Satisfaction Survey earlier this year. Jetty Research conducted a survey of a statistically valid sample of residents. The survey aimed to assess satisfaction with and priorities towards different Council managed facilities and services.

Of the 25 facilities and services rated, the four most highly rated were libraries, water supply, sewage collection and treatment, and parks, reserves and playgrounds. The delivery of sealed roads was seen as least effective in meeting resident's needs, with other notable areas for improvement including environmental monitoring and protection, footpaths and cycleways and economic development. The survey showed that QPRC residents preferred doing business with Council online, whether that be for payments, lodging applications and forms, finding information or providing feedback.

Overall satisfaction with Council was extremely positive, with a net satisfaction rating that indicates 40% more residents were satisfied than dissatisfied. These surveys help us note areas that require improvement and improve our project and services planning for the future.

It was positive to see that overall quality of life measures performed very well, despite the survey being conducted in March 2020, a few months after bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic impacting our day-to-day lives.



## Braidwood water supply

While Braidwood's water supply is robust, the last dry season really tested the supply, with Council implementing Stage 4 water restrictions after the Shoalhaven River stopped flowing. On the back of that experience, we plan to have a look at the ability of the Shoalhaven to provide for the future long-term water supply for Braidwood.

Council has adopted a Palerang Communities Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan. Part of the work that was undertaken when this plan was prepared considered the water supply but didn't find any issues. Given the experience we've had, Council sees the need to go back and revisit that. The study will look at what yields are available from the Shoalhaven River and will consider a range of options, from additional storage or alternate water supplies.

During the dry period, we did some initial background work looking at alternative groundwater supplies without finding anything suitable. This type of work does take some time and considerable investigation, and Council will continue to look at the security of water for Braidwood.

## CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS



Mayor  
Cr Tim Overall  
6285 6223  
0410 530 681



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 346 013

Email addresses can  
be found at:  
[www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/councillors](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/councillors)



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council: 144 Wallace St, Braidwood - 10 Majara St, Bungendore - 256 Crawford St, Queanbeyan  
P: 1300 735 025 E: [council@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@qprc.nsw.gov.au)  
W: [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/qbnpalrangRC](https://www.facebook.com/qbnpalrangRC) Twitter: @QbnPalrang