

REPORTS TO COUNCIL - ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION

8.4 Options for Honouring Historical Significance of Heavy Horse, Alma (Ref: ; Author: Richards/Goiser)

File Reference: 26.4.1-13

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the proposals on naming a landmark to honour Alma, a historically significant Braidwood and District heavy horse; and place the three identified options on public exhibition for 28 days.
 2. Receive a further report following this community engagement.
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Summary

At the meeting of 8 October 2025, Council considered renaming Ballalaba Bridge as Alma Bridge. In line with strong community representation, Council resolved to retain the existing bridge name and seek community feedback on an appropriate landmark to name in honour of the significant Braidwood and District heavy horse, Alma (**Resolution 1087/25**).

This report provides options developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Background

Alma was a Clydesdale stallion who won the 'Best two-year old stallion for agricultural purposes' at the Royal Agricultural Society Show in Carlisle (UK) in 1855. The Hon. Hugh Wallace, for whom the main street of Braidwood is named, purchased Alma and transported him to Australia in early 1856.

Regularly referred to in articles and advertisements as an 'imported prized stallion,' Alma stood at stud at the Nithsdale property near Braidwood. At a time when heavy horses were the backbone of transport, construction and agricultural industries, before the advent of heavy machinery, Alma sired many other heavy horses in the region, adding to the working stock which played a pivotal role in the region's development.

Report

Discussions have been held with the Braidwood and Districts Heavy Horse Association regarding a proposed approach to identifying an alternative and appropriate landmark to honour Alma. It was acknowledged that Alma already lends his name to the Grand Champion Led Heavy Horse trophy (the Alma Cup) presented at the annual Braidwood and District Heavy Horse Show. It was determined that consulting key stakeholders to identify a limited number of options to be put to the community was preferable to asking generally for suggestions.

The key stakeholders approached included:

- Braidwood Museum;
- Braidwood Showground Reserve Trust;
- Braidwood Community Association; and
- Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber.

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The stakeholders agreed to avoid renaming existing landmarks and instead consider new opportunities to celebrate Alma's legacy. Stakeholders considered a range of possibilities and noted that there are currently no naming opportunities at the Braidwood Showground. Some feedback suggested Alma is not widely known or celebrated as a part of Braidwood's history.

Council's Land Information System (LIS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) staff also provided advice and guidance given their role in road naming proposals.

50 With agreement from the Braidwood and Districts Heavy Horse Association, a final list of three options was determined.

The first option of road naming is the simplest as it incurs minimal risk and funding. The second and third options will require the identification of suitable structures and funding to procure an artist to deliver the final outcome.

The options identified are:

1. Alma Lane

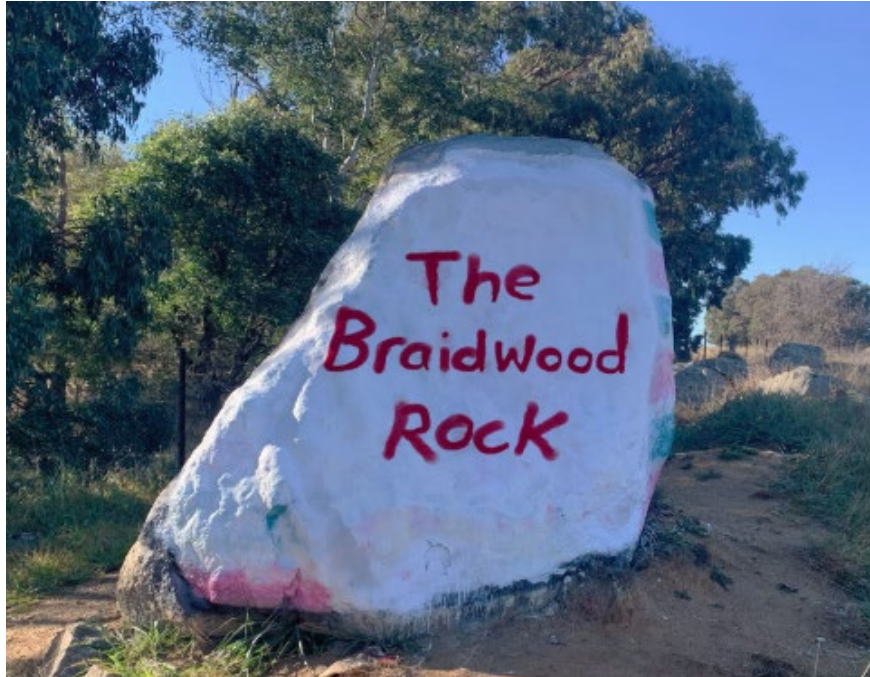
60 The laneway from Duncan Street to the rear of the QPRC Braidwood Depot, and the site of the future Braidwood car park, does not currently have a name. The name 'Alma Lane' satisfies the Geographical Names Board's requirements and could be submitted for a formal assessment.



2. Alma Rock

This involves replicating the large rock that is adjacent to Kings Highway approximately 5km west of Braidwood and is commonly referred to as 'Birthday Rock' (because of the birthday wishes and messages regularly painted on it). A suitable rock or stone structure could be identified or positioned somewhere near the Nithsdale property and could carry a mural or etching of Alma along with some interpretive signage explaining Alma's history. It could become known as 'Alma Rock'.

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3. A mural of Alma on a water tank or large rural structure

This option involves partnering with a landowner to paint a mural of Alma on a prominent rural structure, similar to the mural in Captains Flat which features 'Captain', a large bullock for which the town of Captains Flat is named.

**Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations**

The option to name the unnamed lane from Duncan Street to the rear of the Braidwood Council Depot and the site of a future public car park presents minimal risk, as it aligns with naming guidelines.

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The option to position a rock or stone structure near Nithsdale and commission a small mural or artwork carries the risk that a suitable, safe location may not be able to be identified. The success of the option to commission a large mural on a structure depends on finding a suitable structure and, if it is on private land, securing a willing landowner.

Financial, Budget and Resource Implications

Naming Alma Lane requires only street signage and would incur minimal costs. Alma Rock and mural options will depend on external arts grant funding or community fundraising efforts.

Links to QPRC/Regional Strategic Plans

QPRC Community Strategic Plan 2042

- 90 1. Our Community
- 1.1 Celebrate the unique heritage and the diverse identities of our people, city, towns, villages, and rural areas.

Conclusion

As noted in the report, the three naming options provided were agreed during initial stakeholder engagement. Council is asked to place these options on public exhibition for 28 days to determine the preferred choice.

Attachments

Nil