

2024-2029

BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY PLAN



This strategy acknowledges the traditional custodians of the Braidwood Region. Braidwood is located within the Yuin Nation, on Walbanga Country. The Walbanga People speak dialects of the Dhurga language.

We pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.
We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of our First Nations peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together.

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1. Purpose of this plan

This plan has been developed to document and acknowledge the issues and projects that are important to the people of Braidwood and the surrounding villages. This will enable both Council and the community to take advantage of funding and other opportunities as they become available. It will also provide a sense of accomplishment as the projects are completed.

The plan will provide input into Council's Delivery Programs and Operational Plans that determine Council actions and projects for the following four years and one year respectively.

This is part of Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework which is an hierarchical set of inter-related plans that deal with the organisation's delivery of services. These are shown in the diagram following.

- The **Community Strategic Plan** identifies the objectives (directions) that the community wants to head towards and sets out the strategies (key goals) on how they will get there.
- The **Delivery Program** picks up these strategies and then links them to the actions Council will undertake over the following four years.
- The **Operational Plan** looks at the specific actions Council will undertake within EACH financial year. It will identify the annual budget required to deliver the actions plus the responsible officer who will implement them.
- **Regional Strategic Plans** will help to inform the delivery program and operational plan to anticipate funding including grant applications.



Figure 1: QPRC Integrated Planning Process

2. Consultation

Consultation with stakeholders is an important part of developing a community plan. Workshops were held with representatives of youth and business and expressions of interest were circulated to the community. In acknowledgement that there have been a range of consultations with Braidwood residents over the past few months, this plan has been developed using those consultation documents provided by:

- Braidwood Community Association
- Braidwood Life Centre
- Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber
- Braidwood and Villages Tourism

It was also informed by the Braidwood and District Resilience Plan, the Braidwood Vision document and the consultation document developed during consultations on the Braidwood Structure Plan. This document is provided as a draft for further discussion and amendment. The purpose of the document is to assist in identifying priorities for Braidwood and the region. It will assist Council in identifying important grant projects. The plan will be formally updated at the conclusion of each Council term. The plan is a 'living' document that belongs to the community.

3. Describing Braidwood

The Braidwood district is a unique and picturesque region located on the southern table lands of NSW, nestled between the coastal range and the Great Dividing Range with the Shoalhaven River running between the two ranges. The region is known for its natural beauty, rich history, artisan community and unique produce. Along with the surrounding villages and rural communities, Braidwood is a unique vibrant region with a strong and well-preserved heritage, dating back to the early 1800s. On 3 April 2006, Braidwood and its setting was listed on the NSW State Heritage Register as an 'excellent surviving example of a Georgian period town plan dating from the late 1830s'. This community strategic plan covers the Braidwood township (shown below) and its immediate surrounding areas.



Figure 2: Braidwood 2021 Census Data (Urban Centre)

Braidwood is primarily and traditionally a rural area, with an agricultural economy, supplemented by service industries and businesses catering to tourism and hospitality. However, people involved in the arts and other creative endeavours have been attracted to the area since the early 1970s and, in recent years, 'tree changers' of all ages have relocated to Braidwood. The ability to work from home via telecommunications has facilitated that trend.

Traditionally, residents have been closely linked by family connections and a shared history and lifestyle. Braidwood continues to be a cohesive community with strong personal links and a sense of shared identity.

4. Braidwood Demographics

Based on 2021 census the population of Braidwood town is 1,414, living in 736 dwellings with an average household size of 2.1 people. Braidwood has a land area of 4.9 sq kilometres and a population density of 288.6 people per kilometre.

Twenty-three (23) percent of the population was born overseas predominantly in United Kingdom, New Zealand and France. Australian Aboriginal people make up 1.6% of the population. From 2016 to 2021, Braidwood's population increased by 141 people (10%).

The following graph shows population by age group, compared with the whole Queanbeyan-Palerang region.

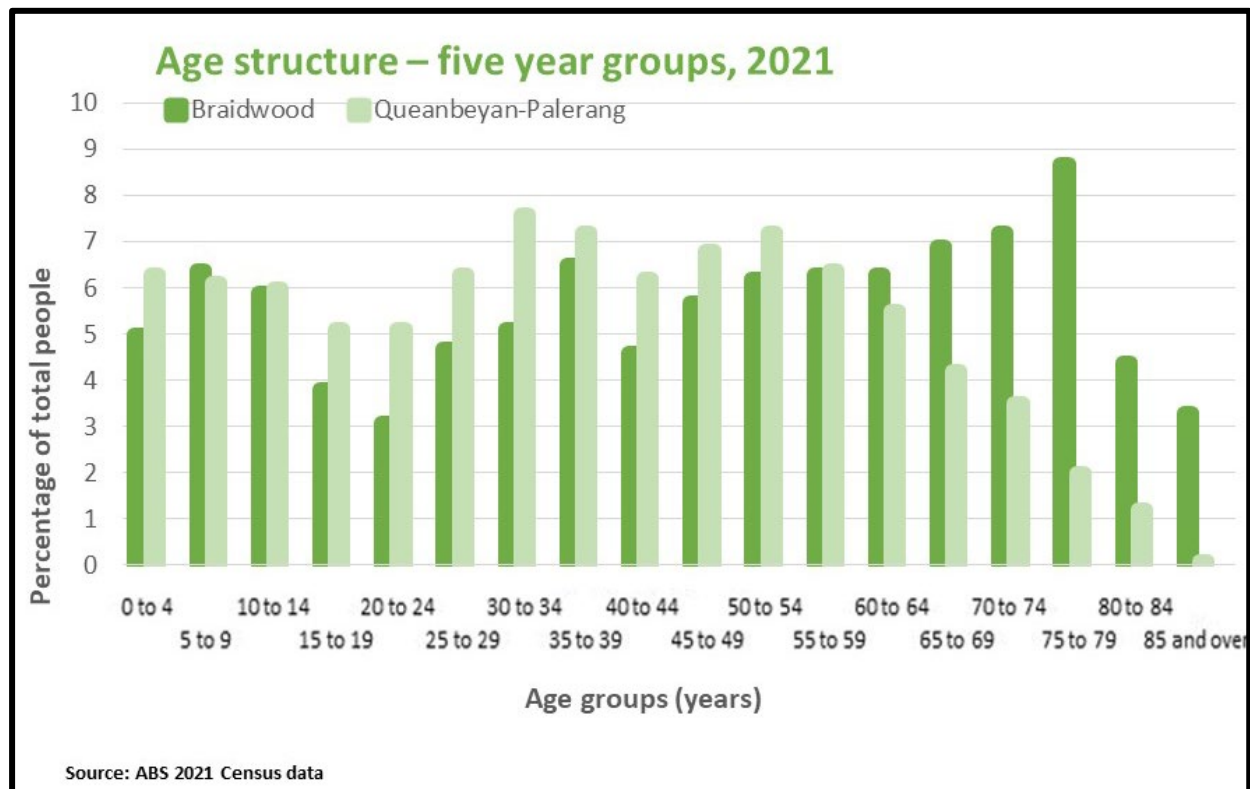


Figure 3: Braidwood Five Year Age Groups, ABS Census 2021

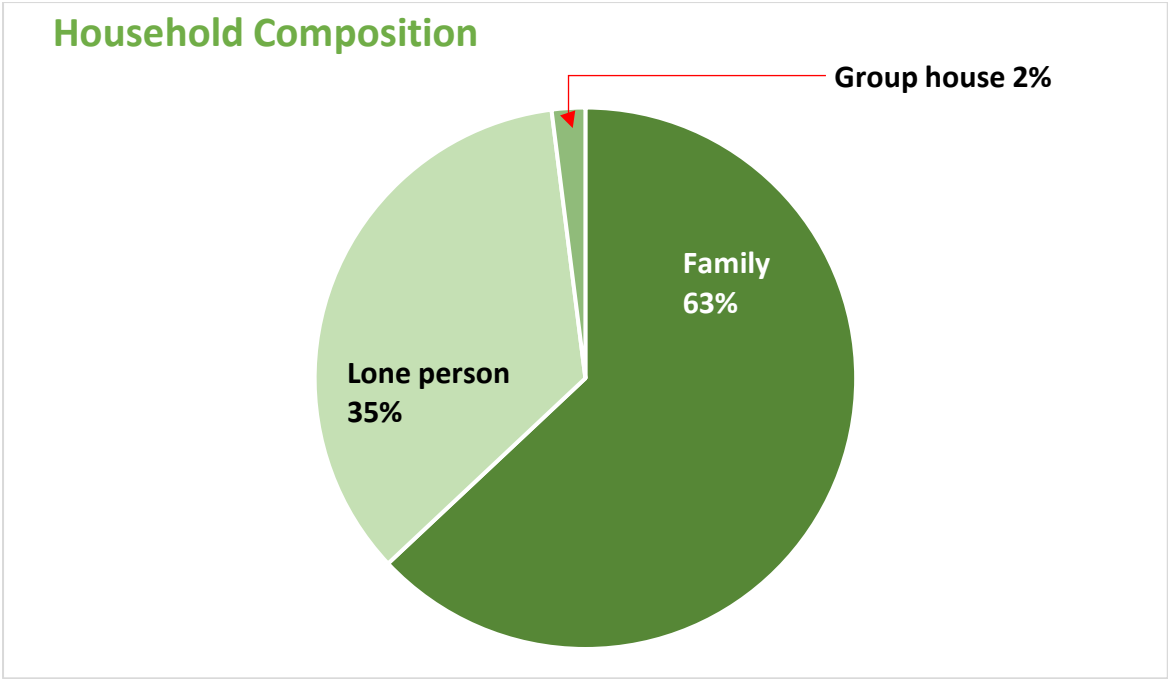


Figure 4: Household Composition, ABS Census 2021

Median Age 48 QPRC area 38 Regional NSW 43 New South Wales 39	Lone Person Households 35% QPRC area 38 Regional NSW 43 New South Wales 25	Median weekly income (household) \$1,367 QPRC area \$2,295 Regional NSW \$1,466 New South Wales \$1,849
Median weekly mortgage \$392 QPRC area \$500 Regional NSW \$399 New South Wales \$500	Median weekly rent \$350 QPRC area \$360 Regional NSW \$330 New South Wales \$420	Households renting 26% QPRC area 26% Regional NSW 27% New South Wales 33%
University qualification 27% QPRC area 28% Regional NSW 18% New South Wales 28%	Overseas born 23% QPRC area 26% Regional NSW 12% New South Wales 29%	Unemployment 4% QPRC area 3.1% Regional NSW 5.0% New South Wales 5.0%

Figure 5: Braidwood Population Highlights and Comparisons, ABS Census 2021



Figure 6: Main street of Braidwood – Wallace Street

5. Vision

The vision statement for this plan is taken directly from the work already completed by the Braidwood community - *'We strive to be a willing, inclusive and supportive rural and regional community, rich in social connections, protective of our natural environment, respectful of our history and heritage and invested in our thriving and diverse economy.'* The diagram below shows the vision developed during the workshop with Braidwood youth.



Figure 7: Vision Wheel Developed by Braidwood Youth, Workshop 2023

6. Strategies and values

QPRC STRATEGIC THEMES	BRAIDWOOD STRATEGIC THEMES	VALUES
<i>Contemporary civic leadership and governance</i>	<i>History and heritage</i>	<i>We will value, celebrate, and promote:</i> • Our First Nations Peoples, the Dhurga speaking people of the Yuin Nation • The contributions of settlers and migrants • Our unique heritage – the only State Heritage listed town in NSW
<i>A safe, resilient & well-connected community with good infrastructure</i>	<i>Diverse, inclusive and supportive community</i>	<i>We will be:</i> • A genuine rural community • Caring inclusive and generous • Encouraging and supportive of our youth • Protective of our diversity – creating an interesting environment
<i>A clean, green community</i>	<i>Rich natural environment</i>	<i>We will:</i> • Continue as active custodians of our unique and beautiful environment. • Value, protect, and promote our district's unique biodiversity, natural beauty and attractions in a responsible way
<i>A safe, harmonious, happy and healthy community</i>	<i>Sustainable and Resilient Community</i>	<i>We will:</i> • Engage proactively with all levels of government and regional partners. • Contribute to planning & managing, our region in line with our Vision. • Ensure our growth is sustainable. • Require our infrastructure, facilities and amenities meet community needs and are proactively managed and enhanced
<i>A diverse, resilient and smart economy that creates choice</i>	<i>Vibrant and Balanced Economy</i>	<i>We will:</i> • Create a thriving and varied economy that takes advantages of our rural industries and local produce, small businesses, eco and heritage tourism, creative strengths and remote working opportunities. • Promote Braidwood as a small, but important regional hub. • Work to achieve a balance of sectors creating economic resilience & offering opportunities to our young and old, locals & newcomers

Figure 8: QPRC Strategic Themes (Community Strategic Plan)
Braidwood Strategic Themes & Values (prepared by BAVBC, Braidwood & Villages Tourism & Braidwood Community Association)



Figure 9: Braidwood Post Office built in 1865

7. Achievements 2017-2023

AREA	ITEM
Infrastructure	Construction of Braidwood Waste Transfer Station
	Reinstatement of Braidwood Landfill
	Upgrade of Shoalhaven Pump Building
	Upgrade to Braidwood truck wash
	Upgrade of Sales Yard
	Review of Braidwood water supply
	Water Services Replacement
	Sewer Main Upgrade
	Sewer – Manhole upgrades
	Purchase of 88 Wallace Street
Plans	Braidwood Floodplain Risk Management Plan and Study
	Braidwood Grazing Industry Weed Management Plan
	Palerang Communities Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy
	Braidwood Archaeological Management Plan
	Decontamination Plan for 88 Wallace Street
Roads and footpaths	Construct & Seal - Grants NerrigaRd
	4.4-6.6km from Araluen Road
	Lascelles Street upgrade
	Repair of Majors Creek Road
	Sealing of Saleyards Lane
	Braidwood safety improvements on Kings Highway
	Lascelles Street footpaths
	Elrington Street footpath
	Coronation Avenue shared path
	Paths leading to Braidwood Pool (funded but not yet completed)
Parks and recreation	Ryrie Park playground and upgrades
	Recreation ground stage 1 - Amenities block, canteen, sports court, multipurpose room, BMX track
	Recreation ground stage 2 – Playground, tennis courts, tree removal, tiered seating
	Recreation ground stage 3 – internal works and drainage channels
	Braidwood Skate Park

AREA	ITEM
Community	Braidwood Pool upgrade
	Floodlights on the Braidwood Recreation Ground
	Beefing up Braidwood weed control
	ABC Radio Signal boosted in Braidwood
	Establishment of QPRC Bushfire Recovery Centre
	Various projects under bushfire grants
	Upgrade of the National Theatre
	Heritage assistance grants for six properties including the showground
	Treasure Trail economic development campaign
	Accessibility Pod in Braidwood pool
	Community Centre for youth and community groups



Figure 10: the Royal Mail Hotel, Wallace Street Braidwood

8. Future Priorities for Braidwood

The following actions have been identified as important for the community of Braidwood over the next months and years. Council will have varying roles in these actions ranging from support and/or advocate to provider or facilitator. Many of the actions will require collaboration.

A brief explanation of these terms is shown below.

ADVOCATE	Publicly recommend and/or support
PROVIDE	Make available for use or supply
COLLABORATE	Work jointly on an activity or project
SUPPORT	Give assistance
FACILITATE	Help to bring about

Actions that are not in the current QPRC Operational or Delivery Plans will need to source funding, predominantly through grants. This list will assist Council and the community to identify local priorities.

Underpinning the development of Braidwood will be security in the provision of:

- water supply and planning for increased demand for water.
- stabilising power sources for fewer outages – (generation/battery, local solar).
- stabilising internet connection resilience which is currently inadequate for a digital economy.

NOTE:

BAVBC	Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber
BCA	Braidwood Community Association
BEWO	Braidwood European Wasp Offensive
BULG	Braidwood Urban Landcare Group
BYPAA	Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association
MPS	Multi Purpose Health Service
QPRC	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
USLC	Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council
VIC	Visitor Information Centre

AREA	ACTIONS	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	PROJECT LEAD	PARTNERS/ PLANS
INFRASTRUCTURE	Coordinated community input into road condition reports and repair	X	X	X	BCA	Council, TfNSW
	Footpaths/ verges built & maintained including more accessible footpaths and ramps from footpaths to roads for safe access	X	X	X	Council	QPRC Operational Plans
	Braidwood Bypass			X	TfNSW	Council, Funding bodies
	D&S site redevelopment		X		Council	Funding bodies
	Move Council depot to allow redevelopment of the D&S site		X	X	Council	Funding bodies
	Development of a shared path around Braidwood and walking paths along creeks and on Glenmore Road.		X		Council	BULG
	Repairs and resealing of Wallace Street parking pavement including resurfacing of kerbside edges, filling of potholes etc		X		Council	

AREA	ACTIONS	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	PROJECT LEAD	PARTNERS/ PLANS
	Stormwater drainage at the Life Centre / Changing Rooms and the recreation ground	X			Council	
	Zip line over Bombay bridge – Bombay - Farrington - Wymbene			X	BAVBC	
	Pool replacement			X	NSW & Federal Government	
	Increased maintenance of unsealed roads and other rural roads	X	X		Council	
	Community garden – added wicking beds and outdoor table with a roof and seating.		X		BULG	
	More bins in the main street and replacement with pest (bird) resistant type		X		Council	
	Concrete existing walking paths (Judith Wright gardens to Archer Bridge)	X	X		QPRC	BULG, Braidwood Common s355 Committee
	Services connected to dedicated light industrial area		X		Developers	Council
	Mainstreet beautification program		X		Council	BCA, BAVBC
	Traffic calming measures in residential streets – review of speed limits	X			Council, TfNSW	
	Pedestrian island at corner of Monkittee and Wilson Streets for elderly residents at Summerfield and MPS	X	X		Council	
	Pedestrian islands at corner of Lascelles St and Monkittee and Elrington Sts	X	X		Council	
	Fenced dog park		X		Council	
	Underground wiring in Wallace Street			X	Essential energy	
	Better street lighting in town (solar powered).		X		Essential Energy	
	Develop camping and caravan facilities at the show ground		X		Council	S 355 Committee
	Tech hub with reliable internet access		X			
	Efficient storm water infrastructure		X		Council	

AREA	ACTIONS	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	PROJECT LEAD	PARTNERS/ PLANS
	Secure water supply	X	X		Council	
	Consider one-way traffic on Park lane next to St Bede's School and Royal Hotel		X		Council	Tf NSW
	Review of Braidwood Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan	X			Council	
ACCOMMODATION	New residential development areas (outside Heritage Curtilage) linked to expansion of water supply and re-zoning linked to provision of low-cost housing as part of developer contributions		X		Council	Braidwood Structure Plan
	Accommodation strategy to facilitate sustainable housing including the provision of emergency accommodation	X	X		Council	Braidwood Structure Plan
	Encourage development of tourist accommodation – additional motel, caravan park, tiny homes, farm stay and accommodation around National Parks		X		Council Developers	
	Front line services accommodation (temporary and permanent) for service workers	X	X		NSW Govt	
	Provision of Social Housing		X		NSW Govt	Braidwood Structure Plan
	Facilitate development of affordable housing (medium density)		X		Council	
HERITAGE	Work with NSW Heritage to clarify the implementation of Braidwood's Heritage listing.	X			Heritage NSW, QPRC	15 year Review
	Assistance for Heritage maintenance of main street businesses (painting)	X	X		Council	NSW State Govt
	Develop & encourage partnerships with community organisations, QPRC & NSW Heritage to ensure preservation of Braidwood's heritage and development for tourism	X	X		QPRC	BCA, BAVBC, Braidwood & District Historical Society, Heritage NSW
	Create better connection to Country and Aboriginal Heritage	X	X		Heritage NSW	QPRC , Braidwood & District Historical Society

AREA	ACTIONS	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	PROJECT LEAD	PARTNERS/ PLANS
	Use these connections to showcase at the Museum, teach at schools and local NAIDOC events	X	X		Braidwood Museum, Local Schools, QPRC	Local Schools QPRC
	Increase resources for heritage advice	X	X		QPRC NSW Govt	
SOCIAL SERVICES and COMMUNITY	Continue and enhance support for BLC activities. to assist vulnerable residents	X	X		BLC	QPRC (Community Development Team)
	Communicate information about community services available in the region	X	X		QPRC (Community Development Team)	BCA BAVBC
	Identify service deficiencies and advocate for improvement including cost effective community and medical transport	X	X		QPRC, NSW Govt, Federal Govt	Valmar Community Transport, BCA,MPS
	More frequent and subsidised bus service to connect with Queanbeyan via Bungendore.		X		QPRC	Bus operators
	Provision of Youth workers and programs	X	X		QPRC	
	Audit and provision of disability access	X	X		Council	
	Preparation for future emergencies and natural disasters.	X	X		QPRC, Emergency organisations	
	Continue to support performing and visual arts, music and dance opportunities	X	X		QPRC	BYPAA
	Provision and support for early education childcare	X	X		QPRC	Private providers
COMMERCIAL	Small abattoir in an appropriate location		X	X	QPRC	BAVBC
	Investigate the use of local biosolids		X		BULG	USLC
	Build Braidwood Cooperative		X		BAVBC	
	Explore Community Improvement District (CID) program	X			BAVBC, BCA	QPRC
	Encourage more businesses into the light industrial precinct and more land sales in the commercial precinct		X		Developers, Landowners	Braidwood Structure Plan

AREA	ACTIONS	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	PROJECT LEAD	PARTNERS/ PLANS
TOURISM	Build Braidwood brand		X		BAVBC	
	Support a Local Community Events Coordination team	X			BAVBC	VIC, Council, Other community organisations
	Identify local attractions/ projects list including parks and wildlife, attractions, tours, maps and guides.	X	X		QPRC	VIC BAVBC
	Complete the Heritage museum project	X			Braidwood & District Historical Society	NSW Govt
	Develop & maintain cycle, mountain bike & walking trails/ signage		X		QPRC	
	Platypus walk around the golf course.			X	Landowners Braidwood Servicemen's Club	
	Develop booklet to promote attractions, businesses and hospitality options	X			BAVBC	Council Tourism Team
	Develop a Machinery Trail for Braidwood and Villages		X	X	BAVBC	
	Promote and encourage open/ tour of historic homes and gardens		X		Council Tourism Team BAVBC	Property owners Braidwood Pre-School Annual fundraiser
	Support farmers, growers and artisan markets	x	X		Council	Local producers
	Community event on sales day				BAVBC	
ENVIRONMENT	Footbridge across creek at the end of the nature walk to enable a roundtrip walk of Braidwood Common	X	X		Commonwood Farm, Braidwood Common s355 Committee	QPRC
	Weed control of the Braidwood Common and along all Braidwood creeks	X	X		QPRC, Braidwood Common s355 Committee	QPRC
	Food resilience projects			X	Commonwood Farm, Braidwood Life Centre	Growers, Braidwood Common s355 Committee
	Maintain and enhance wildlife habitat on Braidwood Common and along all Braidwood creeks	X	X		Commonwood Farm	Braidwood Common s355 Committee,BULG

AREA	ACTIONS	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	PROJECT LEAD	PARTNERS/ PLANS
	Access to and use of National Park – collaboration with private owners		X		NPWS, private land owners	
	More trees and environmental enhancement in and around town, linked to QPRC Urban Forest Cooling Strategy	X	X		QPRC	QPRC, BULG, USLC
	Identification signs of trees in Ryrie Park		X		QPRC	QPRC
	Climate change – community preparedness- infrastructure – public cooling centres		X	X	QPRC	QPRC
	Water cycle management including the productive use of rainwater		X			
	Regulation of domestic cats		X		QPRC	
	European Wasp control on all public land	X	X		QPRC	BEWO
	Local clean energy production		X		Braidwood Clean Energy Group	QPRC, other community groups



Figure 11: Braidwood Skate Park

9. Review and Updates

This Community Plan reflects the consensus view of the people and associations of Braidwood. The development of the plan has attempted to include the broadest range of stakeholders possible. Whilst it covers the five year period from 2024-2029, it is a living document that is provided as a flexible roadmap that can adapt to changing circumstances and new information.

The plan will be updated each new financial year from July 2025 and have a full review at the end of the 2028-29 year. This will be lead by the Manager, Community Development and involve the groups identified in the note above and any additional interested parties who live and/or work in Braidwood.

This plan recognises the ongoing work of the associations, businesses and people of Braidwood and the surrounding villages.

Continued work on the community plans across the LGA will determine whether the Progress Associations of Majors Creek, Araluen, Mongarlowe, Nerriga and others should be included in the Braidwood Community Plan or will develop their own local plans.