



15-Year Management Review of 'Braidwood and its Setting' State Heritage Register Listing

Milestone 2: Community and Stakeholder Engagement, Final Report

Prepared for Heritage NSW

May 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

We respect and acknowledge First Nations and First Peoples across Australia.

This report concerns land on the traditional Country of the Yuin Nation, whose lands and waterways, rich and continuing cultural heritage and their connections to Country, along with their Elders past and present we acknowledge and respect. We are committed to truth-telling and to the concepts of voice, treaty and truth in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Cultural warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this report may contain images or names of First Nations people who have passed away.

Report register

The following report register documents the development of this report, in accordance with GML's Quality Management System.

Job No.	Issue No.	Notes/Description	Issue Date
21-0094A	1	Preliminary Draft Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report	24 June 2022
21-0094A	2	Draft Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report	2 September 2022
21-0094A	3	Updated Draft Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report	20 December 2022
21-0094A	4	Final Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report	4 May 2023

Quality assurance

The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality assurance policy and procedures.

It aligns with best-practice heritage conservation and management, *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013* and heritage and environmental legislation and guidelines relevant to the subject place.

Indigenous cultural and intellectual property

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Executive summary

Communities are integral to the ongoing conservation, management and promotion of heritage. Consultation with key stakeholders and the community was identified by Heritage NSW as integral to this 15-Year Management Review of the State Heritage Register (SHR) listing of 'Braidwood and its Setting' project. Since Braidwood was listed on the SHR more than 15 years ago, 'Braidwood and its Setting' has experienced considerable change, as has the local community. Heritage NSW understands that the SHR listing has variously impacted many people who live, work and care for the historic township.

Heritage NSW engaged GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of the 'Braidwood and its Setting' SHR listing (the project). The multi-staged project is focused on updating and improving the performance of the SHR listing for the community, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC), and Heritage NSW.

In January 2022 GML prepared the Milestone 1—Management Review report that identified and examined several key issues and challenges associated with the administration and management of the SHR listing for Braidwood and its Setting. That report provided a framework for future community consultation which influenced the methodology, format and focus of the community engagement program that was subsequently delivered. The community engagement program was also informed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), which outlines the core values for public participation.

GML Heritage and Heritage NSW led an 'in person' engagement program that was held in Braidwood over three days, between Wednesday 18 May and Friday 20 May 2022. A community information session was held at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club and Golf Course. Stakeholder workshops and drop-in sessions were hosted at the Braidwood National Theatre. After the engagement program in Braidwood, a series of one-on-one targeted interviews and other discussions were conducted with First Nations representatives, community members and key stakeholders. These discussions were held online. To widen the community participation in the project, from 19 May 2022 to 19 June 2022, an online survey was open to individuals, stakeholders and organisations. The online survey was widely promoted via local newspapers, radio, social media, and flyers.

The issues raised and concerns expressed regarding the effectiveness of the SHR listing for 'Braidwood and its Setting' during the engagement program are summarised in this report. This report also provides an overview of the community engagement program itself and the methodologies used. Several key takeaways emerged from the engagement program and are documented herein. These matters will inform and influence the final stage of the project.

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1 Introduction

1 Introduction

The historic Georgian township of Braidwood and its setting was listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) under Part 3A of the *Heritage Act, 1977* (NSW) in 2006. Braidwood was gazetted as a SHR listed item for its heritage significance to the people of NSW as an excellent example of a surviving Georgian town plan, with historical streetscapes and nineteenth-century building stock, set within a broader pastoral landscape. At the time of listing, Braidwood was by far the most complex listing that Heritage NSW (then the NSW Heritage Office) had undertaken.

It has been more than 15 years since Braidwood was listed on the SHR. Over that period Braidwood has experienced considerable growth and development. Heritage NSW engaged GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of the 'Braidwood and its Setting' SHR listing (the project). The multi-staged project is focused on updating and improving the performance of the SHR listing for the community, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) and Heritage NSW.

In January 2022 GML submitted a Milestone 1—Management Review report that identified and examined several key issues and challenges associated with the SHR listing. It considered the administration of the listing, the statutory planning context including controls, mechanisms and approvals processes, and provided a draft stakeholder and community engagement program designed to help inform the future planning, management and conservation of the heritage significance of 'Braidwood and its Setting'.

This report has been prepared to satisfy the requirements for Milestone 2—Community and Stakeholder Engagement. It provides an overview of the community engagement program and methodology. Key issues and concerns expressed by the community and stakeholders regarding the effectiveness of the SHR listing for Braidwood and its setting are also summarised. This report also provides outcomes of the First Nations consultation and an analysis of the online survey responses. The online survey was open from 19 May 2022 to 19 June 2022 following the submission of the initial draft Milestone 2 report.

1.1 The Subject Site

The SHR listing of 'Braidwood and its Setting' covers the historic town centre of Braidwood and some areas of surrounding rural agricultural landscape, within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA) in the Southern Tablelands. The SHR listed historic townscape is situated approximately 61 kilometres from Canberra, 96 kilometres from Nowra, and 47 kilometres from Batemans Bay (Figure 1.1).

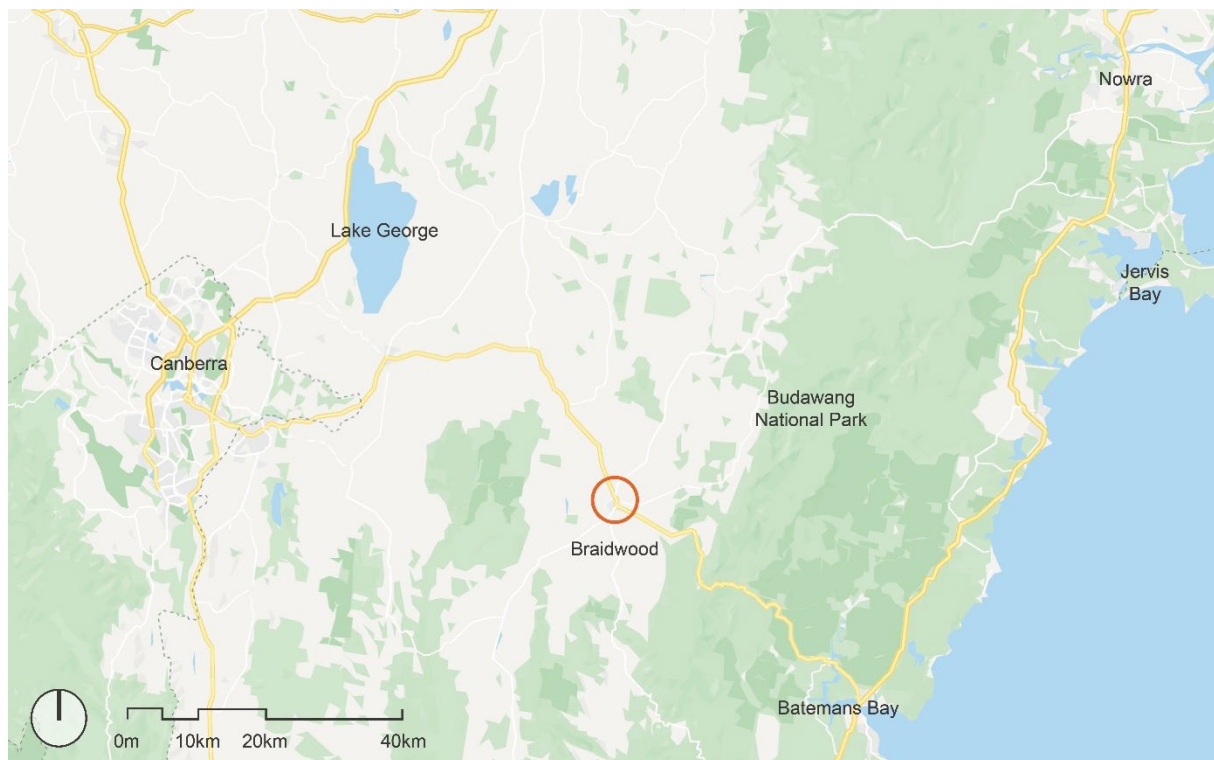


Figure 1.1 The location of Braidwood in its regional context. (Source: © Google with GML overlay, 2021)

1.2 Project Scope and Methodology

The community and stakeholder engagement program for this Milestone 2—Community and Stakeholder Engagement report was informed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) core values and the Association’s spectrum for public participation (also referred to in this report as engagement). The IAP2 methodology recognises that people have a right to be involved in the decision-making process, and that the public’s contribution will inform and influence decisions. It is also based on the premise that people are provided with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.

The approach to Milestone 2—Community and Stakeholder Engagement included sharing and gathering qualitative and quantitative information, collecting insights, and developing an understanding based on the various perspectives of residents, community groups and other stakeholders about the issues related to heritage planning, management, and conservation in Braidwood today.

The project scope provided by Heritage NSW for Milestone 2 is as follows:

Site visit and consultation with three main stakeholders to identify problems and issues. It is expected that this will be achieved through a:

- a) Site visit to Braidwood to gain first-hand experience of its significant elements (town plan, streetscapes, historic buildings, and pastoral setting) and recent development.
- b) Consultation with QPRC (including Councillors and the Braidwood and Curtilage Heritage Advisory Committee), HNSW, and key Braidwood community organisations (list to be provided) regarding the controls, mechanisms, and approval processes of Braidwood and its Setting. This should identify:
 - i. where these controls, mechanisms, and approval processes are effective and/or efficient and where issues and problems exist;
 - ii. how engagement with the Braidwood community and property owners could be improved, especially over the long-term, and;
 - iii. how the management of Braidwood and its Setting can be improved.
- c) Progress Report 2 to HNSW with the results.

The scope for this stage was adjusted to take account of the preliminary consultation undertaken during Milestone 1—Management Review. In May 2021, as part of Milestone 1, GML undertook some targeted face-to-face discussions with the following stakeholders:

- Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) planners, and parks and maintenance staff;
- the Heritage Advisor for QPRC;
- former staff of the NSW Heritage Office; and
- long-term Braidwood residents.

The community engagement methodology for Milestone 2 involved both digital and 'in person' information sharing and engagement. The program was held over three days in Braidwood, between Wednesday 18 May and Friday 20 May 2022. It included attendance at a QPRC meeting, a community information session held at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club and Golf Course, stakeholder workshops, drop-in sessions held at the Braidwood National Theatre, an online opinion survey and one-on-one discussions and interviews. Meetings were held in person and online.

1.3 Limitations

The preparation of this report is based on the in-person discussions with the Braidwood community over two days, and online meetings with relevant stakeholders. We acknowledge the comments collected as part of the project represent a small sample of the community's views about Braidwood's SHR listing.

1.4 Authorship

This report has been prepared by Loredana Sipione (Heritage Consultant). Sharon Veale (CEO and Principal) and Martin Rowney (Principal) provided review and input.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the Braidwood community for their generosity, time and patience. The opportunities, issues and stories about Braidwood shared by the community have informed the body of this report.

We would like to thank Margaret Tuckwell and Alex Rea for their assistance in promoting the engagement program to the Braidwood community. We are also grateful to the Braidwood Servicemen's Club and Golf Course and Braidwood National Theatre, especially Chris Watkins, for hosting GML and assisting us to facilitate this work.

We have spoken with some members of the First Nations community who have connections to Braidwood. We would like to acknowledge them and their generosity in contributing to this project. The information provided in this document is a general summary of the information provided to GML.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Heritage NSW team for their ongoing support of this project and for their contribution to the design and planning of the community engagement, as well as their involvement in the community information session, stakeholder workshops, and drop-in sessions.

2 Engagement Plan

2 Engagement Plan

This section provides the methodology and outline of the community and stakeholder engagement program.

2.1 Key Groups and Stakeholders

Each stage of this project has involved engagement with the community and QPRC. Milestone 1 involved meetings and discussions with:

- QPRC planners;
- QPRC parks and maintenance staff;
- the QPRC Heritage Advisor;
- former staff of the NSW Heritage Office; and
- long-term Braidwood residents.

The focus of Milestone 2 was to engage with residents, businesses, and local community groups in Braidwood. Heritage NSW provided a list of the key groups and stakeholders. Table 2.1 provides a list of the groups and stakeholders identified and contacted.

Table 2.1 Key groups and stakeholders.

Key groups and stakeholders
Braidwood’s residents and business owners
Local Community Groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braidwood and District Historical Society • Braidwood and Villages Tourism • Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber • Braidwood Garden Club • Braidwood Community Association • Braidwood Farmers Markets • Braidwood Apex Club • Braidwood Servicemen’s Club
QPRC Heritage Advisory Panel
First Nations representatives

2.2 Engagement Methods

To promote the engagement program and reach a broad audience, several methods were used including social media, online noticeboards, print-based material, radio and newspaper from 19 May 2022 to 19 June 2022. A letterbox drop of local businesses and residents in Braidwood along the main street provided information about the project and opportunities to participate.

Table 2.2 outlines how each engagement method was utilised in the project.

Table 2.2 List of engagement methods.

Type	Media	Overview
Newspapers	<i>Braidwood Bugle</i> <i>Braidwood's Changing Times</i>	<p>An advertisement was designed by the <i>Braidwood Bugle</i> and GML to advertise the community information session, stakeholder workshops and drop-in sessions. The advertisement was published in the <i>Braidwood Bugle</i> for three weeks prior to the consultation events.</p> <p>Following the events, a second advertisement (or flyer) was published in the <i>Braidwood Bugle</i> and <i>Braidwood's Changing Times</i> to promote the online survey.</p>
Social Media	Instagram Facebook	<p>The community information session, stakeholder workshops and drop-in sessions were advertised on GML's Instagram page for two weeks prior to the events and on Heritage NSW's Facebook page one week prior to the events.</p> <p>GML published three Instagram posts prior to the in-person consultation in Braidwood. Instagram provides three key data analysis tools for Business accounts: the number of likes received on a post; the 'reach' of each post (the number of people who have seen the post); and the number of 'impressions' (the number of times the post appeared). The data analysis for GML's three Instagram posts are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instagram Post 1 received 16 likes; reached 264 accounts; and made 294 impressions. Instagram Post 2 received 17 likes; reached 190 accounts; and made 208 impressions. Instagram Post 3 received 16 likes; reached 200 accounts; and made 217 impressions. <p>Following the in-person engagement events, a second advertisement highlighting the online survey was shared on Facebook to the following public and private online community groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Braidwood Notice Board;

Type	Media	Overview
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braidwood Rate Payers and Locals; • People of Braidwood Villages; • Residents and Families of Majors Creek NSW; • Araluen Valley Community Page; and • Old Braidwood. <p>Engagement with the posts published to the public Facebook groups were closely followed. The posts were shared by Facebook users and comments about the consultation program were published.</p>
Radio	Braidwood 88.9FM	A radio advertisement was developed and broadcast on 88.9FM twice daily for two weeks prior to the consultation events.
Online Information	GML website	<p>Information about the project scope and events were provided on GML’s website prior to the events and throughout the consultation period. The website provided access to the Milestone 1 Report and a link to the online survey.</p> <p>An analysis of the website data revealed the page was viewed 158 times, by 140 people, between 1 May 2022 and 27 June 2022.</p>
Flyers	Physical printed flyer	<p>GML designed a flyer that was used to promote the events in the <i>Braidwood Bugle</i>. Flyers were provided to the Braidwood Library and posted to information boards at the Visitor Information Centre, the Braidwood National Theatre, Provisions Deli & Creperie, Braidwood Bakery and some businesses on Wallace Street.</p> <p>A second flyer was designed to promote the online survey and notify the community of the two-week extension to the response period. This flyer was provided to the <i>Braidwood Bugle</i> and <i>Braidwood’s Changing Times</i>, and published on the six Facebook groups listed in this table.</p>



Figure 2.1 The flyer on the information board at Provisions Deli & Creperie and the advertisement in *Braidwood Bugle* laying open on the table below. (Source: GML Heritage)

2.3 Engagement Program

The engagement program was delivered in both digital and in-person formats and supported by the promotional material, as discussed in Section 2.2. Table 2.3 provides an outline of each stage of the engagement program.

Table 2.3 Engagement program.

Mode of consultation	Overview
Council Meeting	GML attended a Council meeting at QPRC Chambers with Heritage NSW on 18 May 2022. Heritage NSW introduced the project and engagement program to QPRC. The project team answered questions from the councillors.
Community Information Session	A community information session was held at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club and Golf Course on 19 May 2022. GML presented the project and consultation program to the attendees and answered questions. The community were responsive and eager to share their

Mode of consultation	Overview
	thoughts on the project and engagement methodology. Information about the consultation events was provided in the form of flyers. Thirty people signed the event register.
Stakeholder Workshops	Two stakeholder workshops were held at the Braidwood National Theatre on 20 May 2022. Seven people in total attended the two workshops. The comments received by the attendees were noted on butcher's paper for discussion and record.
Community Drop-in Session	A community drop-in session was held at the Braidwood National Theatre on 20 May 2022. Approximately 25 people attended and spoke one on one with the project team.
Discussions with business owners	On 20 May 2022, flyers were provided to businesses on Wallace Street, including the Braidwood Library, the Visitor Information Centre, the Braidwood National Theatre, Provisions Deli & Creperie, and Braidwood Bakery. GML spoke with business owners and employees about the project and online survey.
Online Survey	<p>The online survey was launched on 19 May 2022 at the community information session. The survey was designed with input from Heritage NSW and created in SurveyMonkey. A website link to the survey was provided.</p> <p>Following initial feedback from the community at the community information session, the online survey period was extended for a further two weeks until Sunday 19 June 2022. The survey was available for four and a half weeks in total. An additional question (Question 8) was added to the survey to allow the community to share any general comments or information about the listing.</p> <p>The survey included eight key questions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1: 'Tell us who you are! Please check all that apply. [Braidwood resident, business owner, member of a community group, worker, interested in the project, other].' • Question 2: 'What do you think is of heritage significance in Braidwood?' • Question 3: 'Have you had any experience with planning approvals or development applications in the State Heritage Register (SHR) listed area?' • Question 4: 'What do you think are the key opportunities for Braidwood's heritage?' • Question 5: 'What do you think are the key challenges for Braidwood's heritage into the future?' • Question 6: 'What do you think are the highest priorities for Braidwood's heritage?'

Mode of consultation	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 7: 'How would you like to be contacted about updates to "Braidwood and its Setting" SHR listing?' • Question 8: 'Do you have any further comments or information you can share with us about "Braidwood and its Setting"?' <p>The online survey received 88 responses. The responses were anonymous. In the survey, Question 1 asked demographic information about the participants to understand the type of groups within Braidwood (refer to Figure 2.2). Seventy-five of the participants were residents and checked other boxes including business owner, worker or member of a community group. The response to category 'other' included property investors, a former Councillor at QPRC/ Palerang Council and the Chair of QPRC Heritage Advisory Committee, and residents of the nearby village Majors Creek.</p> <p>Question 3 asked participants how they would prefer to be contacted about updates to the SHR listing. The largest response (50 participants) responded 'all of the above', eg a community notice, community information (a letterbox drop), a flyer, social media and online (refer to Figure 2.3). The participants also suggested email as the best method and many of these responses included personal email addresses. Other suggestions included local print media including the <i>Braidwood Bugle</i> and Changing Times and Braidwood Facebooks groups, which were utilised throughout the consultation period. It was also suggested that Canberra based media channels should be utilised including 666 ABC National, the Canberra commercial radio station, Twitter and LinkedIn.</p> <p>This feedback may help inform Heritage NSW in future community engagement programs with the Braidwood community.</p>
Targeted Discussions	<p>GML held targeted discussions with several people from community organisations. Further discussions with First Nations peoples and members of the previous QPRC Heritage Advisory Committee have been organised. The targeted discussions were held online.</p>

Question 1: A breakdown of the survey participants

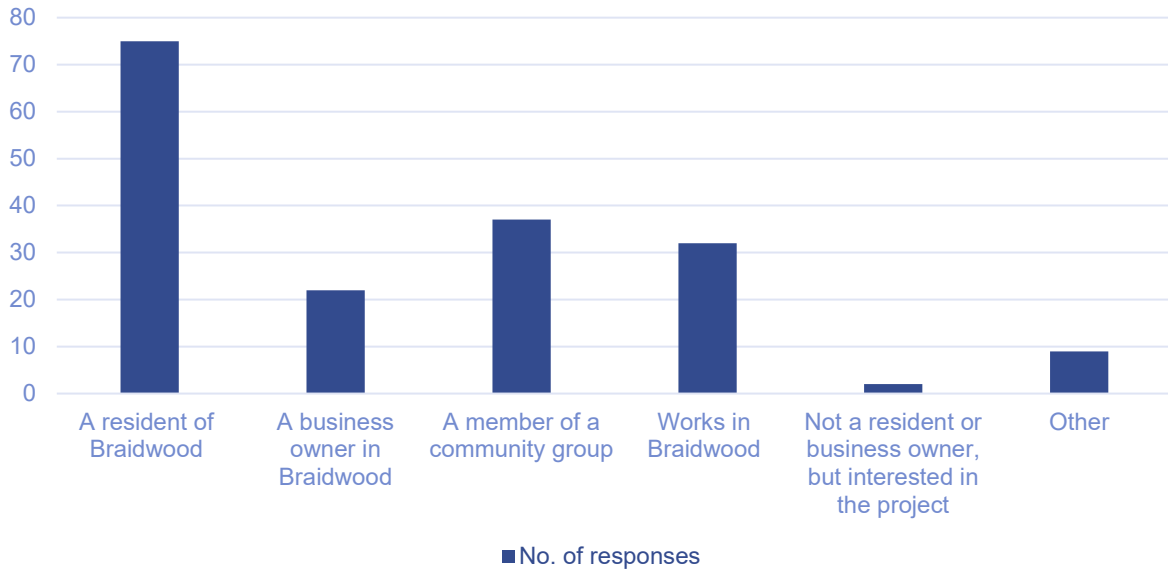


Figure 2.2 Participants’ responses to Question 1 of the online survey. (Source: GML Heritage 2022)

Question 7: How would you like to be contacted about updates to the management of 'Braidwood and its Setting' SHR listing?

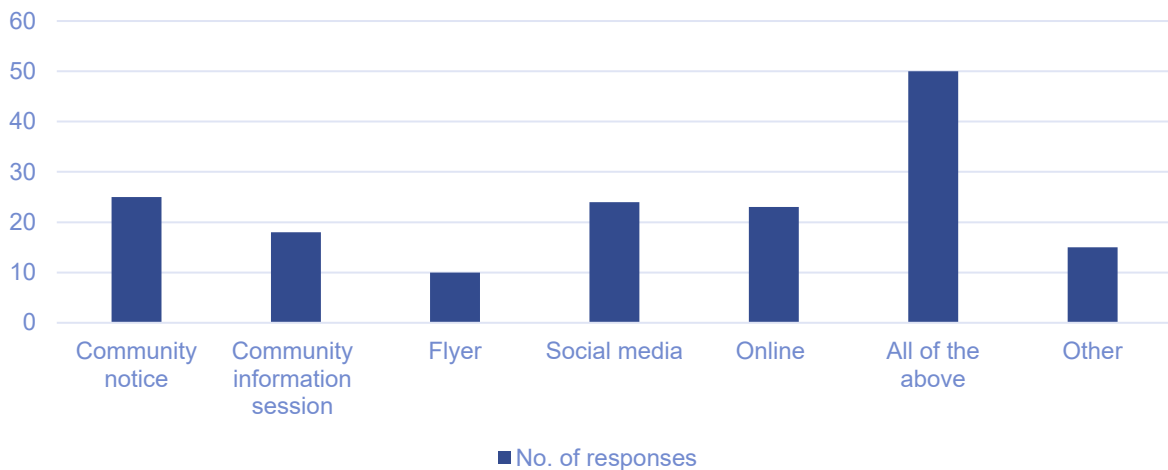


Figure 2.3 Participants’ responses to Question 7 of the online survey. (Source: GML Heritage 2022)



Figure 2.4 A member of the community at a drop-in session at Braidwood National Theatre.
(Source: © GML Heritage)

3 Key Issues and Discussion

3 Key Issues and Discussion

This section provides a summary of the comments received from the stakeholders and community members during the engagement program. The comments are arranged under key headings which reflect the major topics raised and discussed:

- roles and responsibilities of state and local government;
- impacts of State Government development;
- statutory planning and compliance;
- landscape planning and management;
- strategic planning;
- resourcing and funding;
- support and advisory services for heritage;
- State Heritage Register listing review;
- history of approvals; and
- community expectations of heritage.

3.1 Consultation summary

3.1.1 Roles and Responsibilities of State and Local Government

Table 3.1 Roles and responsibilities of state and local government.

Mode of consultation	Comments
Council Meeting	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management of the town is 'not working'. • Applicants have experienced a two-month wait period for feedback on applications, due to a lack of resources.
Community Information Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the time of the listing the community were promised resources by the State Government, but there has been very limited access to funding since the listing. • The original presentation by listing officers in 2006 was offensive. It demonstrated a lack of awareness about the local community. It did not reflect well on the presenting officers. • Listing was considered by some to be a <i>fait accompli</i> and a political back-room deal. • The relationship between QPRC and Heritage NSW is not working.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no vision or future strategy for the township. The community have commenced the process of developing a vision for the future of Braidwood in the absence of government leadership. • State and local government don't appear to have consistent approach or understand their responsibilities. • QPRC and the Heritage Advisor are stretched. The town has grown and there is an increased number of individuals that are looking to develop their properties. • The previous Palerang Council was aware of the requirements for 'Braidwood and its Setting'. Braidwood became part of QPRC following Council amalgamation. It appears that QPRC did not realise what was involved in managing the SHR listing. • Heritage Advisory Committee met with Don Harwin (previous Minister for Heritage) to address QPRC 'mismanagement' of 'Braidwood and its Setting'.
Stakeholder Workshops	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advice and decision making received from QPRC by residents has been inconsistent. • QPRC is not aware of the special treatment required for 'Braidwood and its Setting'. • The heritage character of Braidwood is not well understood by QPRC. For example, new garbage bins on Wallace Street and the playground design are not appropriate for Braidwood. The heritage character did not appear to be considered before these Council services were provided. The community suggested an alternative design which received no consideration from Council. • QPRC seems 'frustrated by heritage'. QPRC cannot provide independent advice due to broken relationship with Heritage NSW and lack of knowledge about heritage matters. There is distrust between Council and applicants. • Braidwood Community Association is attempting to fix the broken relationship with QPRC by providing advice. • There has been inconsistent advice from QPRC's Heritage Advisor relating to grants, sensitive alterations, and HIS and CMP requirements. • Often an applicant's budget and time determines the level of assistance from Council and Heritage NSW. Applicants with bigger budgets have time to continuously follow up QPRC or Heritage NSW for feedback. • The community should be an active partner in heritage and discussions about heritage.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community thought that once Braidwood was listed on the SHR, they would be assisted in managing the place. Instead, they were 'abandoned' by State Government. Community doesn't understand the relationship between QPRC and Heritage NSW. Braidwood has no councillor on Council, and the Queanbeyan area has several significant issues to manage, Braidwood is just not a priority.
Community Drop-In Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is poor communication between state and local government. There is a strong community distrust of local and state government agencies. Local council processes are frustrating and planning advice is inconsistent. Heritage NSW listed Braidwood and then 'walked away'. Heritage advice needs to be more accessible and available. Heritage NSW is absent. There should be a Heritage NSW representative to provide advice in town. During the 2019 fires, Braidwood was cut off from resources and Heritage NSW did not assist the community. A partnership between the Braidwood community, Heritage NSW and QPRC should be established. The partnership should form a strategy that occurs over a three-five year period to improve the relationship and resolve the management issues in the town. QPRC councillors have recently been more helpful and open to suggestions. Some members of the community play off the relationship between state and local government.
Online Survey	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QPRC shouldn't be blamed for the problems Braidwood is experiencing. There is a lack of support from Heritage NSW which has impacted the town. Heritage NSW need to support QPRC and community. Working with Heritage NSW is a challenge.
Targeted Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity in the roles and responsibilities between state and local government needs to be improved. Their respective roles with regard to heritage approvals in Braidwood are not clear. Heritage NSW needs to develop a contemporary strategy for the future of Braidwood as a heritage listed town which considers best practice from local

Mode of consultation	Comments
	and international equivalent listings, associated strategies and management processes.
Discussions with First Nations Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under current NSW legislation, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other government agencies have control of Aboriginal sites and objects. In many instances, First Nations peoples are not invited to participate in the care, control and management of their traditional lands and heritage in Braidwood.

3.1.2 Impacts of State Government Development

Table 3.2 Impacts of State Government development.

Mode of consultation	Comments
Council Meeting	No comments were received.
Community Information Session	No comments were received.
Stakeholder Workshops	No comments were received.
Community Drop-In Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Braidwood Hospital was constructed without any consideration of the heritage context. While the new hospital facility is welcomed, it is not sensitive to the heritage values and character of the township. Nor is it consistent with the DCP controls. The Schools Infrastructure led development of the school was also cited as another example of a State Government development that was not well contextualised and respectful to the character and values of the township. On the Kings Highway approach road into Braidwood Transport for NSW installed guardrails on either side of the road in front of the memorial avenue of Poplars. This has given rise to a significant visual impact on the memorial and the setting and character of the town. There seems to be a 'double standard'. State Government development appears to disregard the heritage values of the town.
Online Survey	No comments were received.
Targeted Discussions	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads and Maritime Services removed some of the historic Poplars and installed railings on the Kings Highway without any consideration of the heritage context. The replacement was a reaction to two car accidents. The speed limit was reduced from 100 to 80. No accidents have occurred since. The railings should be removed.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Braidwood Central School installed an intrusive new electronic sign without due consideration of the heritage context. The residents are held accountable for works to heritage items; however, the State Government agencies are not.
Discussions with First Nations Representatives	No comments were received.

3.1.3 Statutory Planning and Compliance

Table 3.3 Statutory planning and compliance.

Mode of consultation	Comments
Council Meeting	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents may form the view that the heritage review of Braidwood will wind back controls.
Community Information Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planning Scheme Ordinance (1946) required awnings to be pulled down. This initiated informal agreements between owners to maintain the historic awnings on Wallace Street. Draft Queanbeyan-Palerang Comprehensive Local Environmental Plan 2020 will apply to Braidwood and proposes changes to the development standards (floor space ratio [FSR] and building height). Has heritage been considered? A quantitative study or map should be completed to understand where development has occurred since the SHR listing in 2006. What is the higher priority: the Building Code of Australia or heritage controls? QPRC is not endorsing the use of the Braidwood Development Control Plan 2006 (Braidwood DCP).
Stakeholder Workshops	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage impact statements (HIS) and conservation management plans (CMPs) are not being prepared correctly. The assessments of significance and heritage impacts do not correctly identify the item or SHR listing. For example, the CMP for the sheds behind Albion Hotel assessed them as having low significance. Other councils have information about heritage on their website and sufficient DCPs e.g. Snowy Monaro Regional Council and Yass Valley Council. Yass Valley Council provides the Heritage Advisor’s availability on its website.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process for heritage approvals needs to be streamlined. • There is inconsistent treatment of applications. • QPRC doesn't support commercial uses in heritage items. • Assessment planners do not understand heritage significance and the requirements of working with historic buildings.
Community Drop-In Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident who recently moved to Braidwood has submitted various development applications (DAs) to QPRC and has not experienced any major issues. • Another resident moved to Braidwood seven years ago. The land was purchased with an approved DA. They have not experienced any major issues. • There are many issues with the Planning Portal. • There is resistance to light industrial uses on Wallace Street. • What does Heritage NSW suggest for fire proofing?
Online Survey	<p>Question 3 of the online survey asked participants to provide more information about their experience with the current planning and application processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many survey participants made submissions regarding recent DAs at the Albion Hotel, Nutrien Ag sites and the removal of the street trees on Wilson Street. The responses did not state whether Council considered the submissions. • The Two Fires Festival received a grant for the October Braidwood event, recognising Indigenous heritage. • A participant objected to the removal of heritage trees, proposed without community consultation. • A participant recalled how their neighbour submitted a DA for subdivision with a driveway designed in accordance with the controls in the Braidwood DCP 2006 (two-wheel tracks and 2.5m wide). QPRC approved the application with a condition to construct two new 3m-wide gravel driveways. Council suggested constructing the driveway in heritage colours. QPRC's advice was inconsistent with the DCP, which created confusion for the applicants and would result in unsympathetic works. • A participant proposed a new dwelling in a new housing estate that was subject to heritage controls. The application was reviewed by the Heritage Advisor at Council, which the participants felt was justified; however, this resulted in changes to the design which increased costs.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovating dwellings was a common response. In one case, the participants were subject to heritage controls, yet were advised that the building had no heritage value. • Several responders stated they subdivided or amalgamated their property to build a new dwelling. • Some participants have received funding and resourcing in the form of heritage grants or subsidies from Council. • A participant described their experience with the Planning Portal as a 'disaster'. The heritage component of the DA was 'straight forward' and following an inspection by the QPRC Heritage Advisor, the application was approved. • The current heritage controls prevent works to dwellings due to impacts to heritage, and contradict safety standards. • A participant noted the conservation of the old Sunday School Hall has been undertaken by a committee. The committee has found the heritage requirements and controls helpful to its work. • There seems to be a lack of coordination at QPRC which results in time delays which deters people from developing in Braidwood. • One response stated, 'Council doesn't want to conserve heritage buildings'. • There are conflicts between Council regulations and good heritage practice. An example of this is the reinstated timber ceiling in the antique shop. The work was done well; however, it did not comply with Council's fire policy. Heritage considerations in a state heritage listed town should override some Council regulations. These issues cause QPRC many difficulties as the Council usually gets the blame. • Heritage conservation should not restrict development. • New development should be completely sympathetic to the town.
Targeted Discussions	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government and QPRC should develop guidance and clarity around the management of Braidwood as a heritage listed town to reduce red tape and bureaucracy. • The Braidwood DCP 2006 needs to be updated. The DCP does not provide advice for a new house with the SHR curtilage, parking, etc. • Heritage NSW should provide controls for development with the SHR curtilage. • A buildings contribution map should be prepared.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The replacement of the balustrading at the Albion Hotel, a state listed building, divided the community. The Heritage Advisory Committee presented to the Heritage Council about the matter. It was approved and their concerns were not considered. In addition to this, there were 150 objections to subsequent works, including proposed changes to the sheds behind the Albion Hotel. • One participant noted that a modest weatherboard cottage in the town that would be identified as a contributory building was demolished and replaced with unsympathetic development. • The sustainable preservation of heritage means making places attractive for commercial and public use. This includes sympathetic inclusion of modern standards and accommodating contemporary community expectations. • Peter Freeman prepared a Main Street Study to guide further development.
Discussions with First Nations Representatives	No comments were received.

Question 3: Have you had experience with the planning system in the SHR listed area?

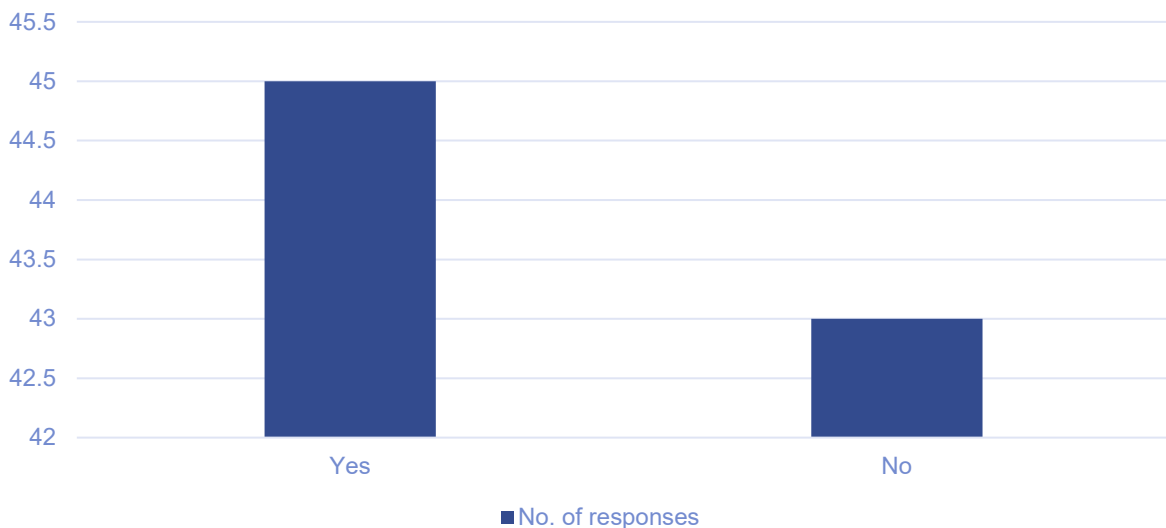


Figure 3.1 Participants' responses to Question 3 of the online survey. (Source: GML Heritage 2022)

3.1.4 Landscape Planning and Management

Table 3.4 Landscape planning and management.

Mode of consultation	Comments
Council Meeting	No comments were received.
Community Information Session	No comments were received.
Stakeholder Workshops	No comments were received.
Community Drop-In Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation does not get any attention. • Seven elms trees near Dr Wilson’s grave site were removed. • There needs to be better guidance around what species of plants should be planted in the town. • QPRC does not properly manage the native plantings along the nature walk (heritage walk) along the creek. • QPRC provides a street cleaning service. The street cleaning is occurring on dirt kerbs. • Trees on Duncan Street are being pruned only on one side to avoid damage to electrical wires. Can underground services be installed? • Landscape heritage is unprotected. Many properties within the curtilage have planted trees and hedgerows that have impacted the open pastoral character of the surrounding landscape. • A significant trees register should be formalised and utilised by Council. • It was suggested that a Ryrie Park Study should be prepared to document the landscape character of the park. • Council and residents need better advice on plantings and landscapes, including climate-resilient plants for revegetation. • Street furniture and plantings need to be considered more carefully. The historic public domain including kerb and gutters, footpaths, plantings, soft verges, etc are not well understood and several decisions have been made that have impacted heritage values. The rubbish bins in the main street were cited as an ‘eyesore’ and not in keeping with the township’s character. The provision of disabled parking and ramp access in the main street was another example provided. • Braidwood has experienced impacts from fires and flooding. Recovery plans for threatened species should be prepared. There will need to be a refuge area constructed, and this needs to be designed in

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<p>conjunction with heritage. Fire issues and planning of fire refuges needs more attention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hedgerows at the entrance to town were removed. These have been removed and replaced with a fence.
Online Survey	No comments were received.
Targeted Discussions	No comments were received.
Discussions with First Nations Representatives	No comments were received.

3.1.5 Strategic Planning

Table 3.5 Strategic planning.

Mode of consultation	Comments
Council Meeting	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy vehicle traffic through the town centre is creating physical damage to historic buildings on Wallace Street.
Community Information Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bypass is crucial to divert heavy vehicle traffic from the town. Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber has prepared a Traffic Study in response to requests for a bypass. There is ongoing pressure for residential growth. Tourism should be considered as a viable option to increase growth. Commercial interests in the town should be better understood. There is no strategic plan for Braidwood, the community don't know where things are heading. Several people and organisations are preparing their own plan/vision for Braidwood to deal with housing, infrastructure, etc. Investment is required to realise the potential of Braidwood while protecting its special character
Stakeholder Workshops	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community demographic is changing. Braidwood experienced impacts from bushfire, COVID-19 and flooding which need to be considered in the future planning of the town.

Mode of consultation	Comments
Community Drop-In Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a growing need for electric car ports. • Solar energy should be considered. How can solar panels be installed on heritage buildings? • A tourism strategy should be developed.
Online Survey	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth and heavy vehicle traffic in the main street are considerable challenges for Braidwood. • The pressure to develop is growing in Braidwood. • Heritage should not be a barrier to new development and infrastructure. • Red tape should be reduced. • More car parking should be provided. • The main street is congested with through traffic from Canberra and Queanbeyan on the weekend.
Targeted Discussions	No comments were received.
Discussions with First Nations Representatives	No comments were received.

3.1.6 Resourcing and Funding

Table 3.6 Resourcing and funding.

Mode of consultation	Comments
Council Meeting	No comments were received.
Community Information Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QPRC needs more town planners. • There has been limited support provided to the community since listing. • There has been no analysis of the costs and benefits of heritage listing of Braidwood.
Stakeholder Workshops	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are limited resources, funding and staff shortages. QPRC focuses on DAs for new development because assessment is simplified and not inundated by unclear heritage controls i.e. Braidwood Ridge. • The community generally is not aware of benefits associated with the listing i.e. heritage grants. • Council should fund small grants. • Council needs to reconsider DA fees. Council's fees cost more than the works. Section 60 applications and

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<p>DAs are expensive. Resourcing needs to cover the consultant and administration fees, report fees etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QPRC couldn't help with funding for Braidwood Heritage Centre which will provide heritage education to schools and skills education. • Braidwood and District Historical Society have received four grants from QPRC i.e. Bushfire Grant. • The CMP for Tidmarsh Cottage was funded and the owners received a \$10,000 grant for windows. • There is more funding available for tourism than heritage.
Community Drop-In Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been little in the way of resourcing from State Government since the listing. • The Heritage Advisor is 'spread thin' and there is insufficient access to advisory services for heritage matters. • Appears to be no dedicated resource in State Government (Heritage NSW) to deal with heritage. • Grants program is not well understood, and awareness varies across the community. Some people have been able to access considerable funding, while others have not.
Online Survey	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be more funding provided to conserve Braidwood's heritage. • Tourism is important, but funding and resourcing is needed to support Braidwood in developing tourism. • There should be remediation provided for the impacts the SHR listing has caused for Braidwood.
Targeted Discussions	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NSW Government needs to provide ongoing investment, in terms of resourcing and financial budget. • QPRC should receive funding and resources. • Owners of heritage items should receive grants and financial assistance. • Technical building support should be provided.
Discussions with First Nations Representatives	No comments were received.

3.1.7 Support and Advisory Services for Heritage

Table 3.7 Support and advisory services for heritage.

Mode of consultation	Comments
Council Meeting	No comments were received.
Community Information Session	The following comments were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Braidwood does not have a representative at Council.
Stakeholder Workshops	The following comments were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community thought they would be supported by Heritage NSW following SHR listing. <li>• There is a perception that the Heritage Advisor is setting the rules and there are a lack of design options or practical advice. This has resulted in applicants shopping around for a different opinion that suits their project. <li>• The Heritage Advisor does not get to view all DAs due to part-time position and filtering by QPRC. <li>• Support and review of the Heritage Advisor position at QPRC. <li>• The Heritage Advisor is spread thin, within a much larger LGA. Development in Braidwood given its heritage value is a 'full time' job. <li>• QPRC doesn't get developer contributions.
Community Drop-In Session	The following comments were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There used to be two Braidwood representatives at Council.
Online Survey	The following comments were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council staff are in all silos (planning, roads and parks) need to be trained in heritage conservation. Material impacts on heritage have been approved by QPRC. It is becoming more and more important that this is managed more effectively as demographic and cultural shifts are creating development pressure in areas such as Braidwood.
Targeted Discussions	The following comments were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QPRC ignored the Heritage Advisory Committee's perspective on applications.
Discussions with First Nations Representatives	No comments were received.

3.1.8 State Heritage Register Listing Review

Table 3.8 SHR listing review.

Mode of consultation	Comments
Council Meeting	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significant views are from the street, not properties. • The curtilage of the SHR listing runs through several properties.
Community Information Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development has changed the setting of Braidwood. • The community did not understand the implications of the SHR listing and they were not adequately explained at the time. • The heritage listing divided the town at the time, now it is generally accepted but still some people in the community do not support it.
Stakeholder Workshops	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community concept of heritage in Braidwood is 'the nice buildings down the main street'. • Living traditions include the heritage parade, the historic pilgrimage to Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson's grave site, which began in 1842, and a heritage walk to the creek. • Most of the individual listed buildings are used commercially and have some degree of public access i.e. Flour Mill holds concerts and garden events. There were tours of farmhouses prior to COVID-19. • Exempt development to listed buildings and the SHR listing needs to be reviewed and understood. • Individual heritage listings have been removed. • LEP listings need to be reviewed. • The Statement of Significance is unclear. This has resulted in loss of historic fabric. The integrity of the town is slowly being lost through ongoing development. • Heritage is a benefit. There is pride in the town. • The community get involved in heritage and are engaged. The Braidwood and District Historical Society has 300 members and up to 20 permanent volunteers. It has received help from 357 volunteers in the past. • Some healing around the SHR listing is required. The community has never really had the opportunity to come together and discuss their concerns since the listing.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage NSW needs to understand the 'impacts' of listing. The impacts are social, economic and environmental. The Braidwood Garden Club has 120 members. It has not really been considered as a key stakeholder. Inventory sheets for SHR listing and items should be updated. Many of the historic industries are still intact, including gold mining, tree logging, and pastoral farming.
Community Drop-In Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The landscape of Braidwood is not captured by the listing, specifically the recognition of boundary trees planted to mark the edge of the early properties/township. Aboriginal cultural values have not been well understood or interpreted. Listing needs to consider Chinese history in Braidwood and the surrounding landscape, including water races, joss houses etc.
Online Survey	<p>Under Question 2 of the survey, the participants noted the following features as being of heritage significance in Braidwood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The historic buildings, including public buildings, shops, houses, pubs, outbuildings (i.e. sheds and stables) and churches. The early nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century buildings with good examples of colonial craftsmanship including cedar joinery, rare winder staircases, fine Georgian style window casements and cedar fireplace surrounds. The Georgian or 'Larmer' town plan, and the size of the lots and laneways. The landscape features, including gardens, trees and parks (i.e. Ryrie Park and recreation grounds). The remnant vegetation, including hedgerows. The views from the middle of the town towards the rural landscape. Braidwood's link to other historic villages and Mount Gillamatong. The streetscape character of Wallace Street, including shopfronts but also footpaths, granite guttering, sandstone flags, iron hitching posts (removed and/or relocated), swales, street trees and the wide main street layout. The rural environment including paddocks, the trees abutting the town, and creeks.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braidwood’s connection to the gold rush and the remaining huts, joss house, and Chinese water-races on the Shoalhaven River. • Aboriginal sites. • The cemetery and Thomas Braidwood Wilson’s grave site. • Braidwood’s history, including Chinese migration, bushrangers, plantations and convict labour, colonial expansion, the gold rush, the connection to a Melbourne Cup winner and the contemporary film culture/industry. • The small community and culture. • The SHR curtilage itself. <p>A few responses noted that Braidwood has lost much of its significance or has ‘very little’ heritage significance. Another response noted there are towns older than Braidwood, which should be given priority in terms of heritage protection. Other participants noted they were not interested in heritage conservation. One respondent stated the SHR listing perfectly captured the significance of Braidwood.</p>
Targeted Discussions	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia doesn’t appreciate its cultural heritage. QPRC sees Braidwood as a burden. • The inventory sheet should be updated, including the Statement of Significance, and a comparative analysis with other similar state listed properties should be added.
Discussions with First Nations Representatives	<p>The existing statement of significance and assessment under the criteria for ‘Braidwood and its Setting’ does not include First Nations cultural heritage. The statement of significance should be updated. Any additions to the assessment recognising First Nations cultural heritage should be broad and inclusive of all First Nations peoples who have attachments to Braidwood. The details about the locations and significance of individual Aboriginal sites and objects should not be included in the listing. Further consultation with First Nations peoples should be undertaken to understand more about women’s sites, totem animals, breeding cycles and Indigenous knowledge about cold burning.</p>

3.1.9 History of Approvals

Table 3.9 History of approvals.

Mode of consultation	Comments
Council Meeting	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development on Ryrie Street impacts significant views.
Community Information Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development on Ryrie Street impacts significant views. • There are concerns about the repainting of the Bushell’s Tea signage.
Stakeholder Workshops	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a widespread misunderstanding of the Integrated Development Approvals (IDA), heritage protection and management processes. Applicants go directly to Heritage NSW in Sydney to avoid delays. Applicants consider QPRC and Heritage Advisor to be tougher. • QPRC is inconsistent in its application of the ‘rules’. • QPRC don’t have the resources or experience to manage the ‘rules’ in relation to heritage. • Araluen Cottage was damaged by works. • New contemporary signage outside Braidwood Central School, is inappropriate for its context. The design of the signage does not comply with the Braidwood DCP 2006. • New development approved on Ryrie Street impacted significant views. The view cones are included in the description in the SHR listing. The IDA was approved by Heritage NSW. QPRC doesn’t consider there to be any view cones. Further modifications were lodged and did not consider the Braidwood DCP 2006, particularly the roof design control which specifies a 40-degree pitch and tin roof material. • QPRC is unaware of heritage system and heritage exemptions function in the heritage system. A stop work order was given for conservation works. • There are some good examples of conservation i.e. Tidmarsh cottage received a National Trust award and was nominated for SHR listing. Heritage NSW lost the application and CMP. The property was later sold and stripped. The property was listed in 2003 but Heritage NSW only called the applicant in 2013. • A DA was approved for demolition of a c1800 cottage. • Council has removed the granite edging on footpaths and hitching posts for horses along Wallace Street

Mode of consultation	Comments
	through a series of ad hoc decisions without any regard for heritage.
Community Drop-In Session	The following comments were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants are bypassing QPRC and contacting Heritage NSW for a 'better deal'. • There are concerns about the repainting of the Bushell's Tea signage.
Online Survey	No comments were received.
Targeted Discussions	No comments were received.
Discussions with First Nations Representatives	No comments were received.

3.1.10 Community's Expectations of Heritage

Mode of consultation	Comments
Council Meeting	The following comments were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A flyer about the project should have been sent out (door to door) to the residents.
Community Information Session	The following comments were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SHR listing in 2006 created a divide in the town: 'pro' listing and 'against' listing. This argument within the town has died down since then but remains unresolved. Generally, the community is happy living in Braidwood.
Stakeholder Workshops	The following comments were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether people 'love' or 'hate' the heritage listing, people are proud of Braidwood. The community have a mainly positive view of the listing. • Heritage is often blamed when things go wrong i.e. bad planning outcomes. There is misunderstanding and misinformation about heritage. • Braidwood will boom regardless of heritage issues. Braidwood is well located and could become the next Southern Highlands. • The community division needs to be healed. • There could be community and Council initiatives to encourage skills development, i.e. 'Painting the Town', a previous initiative in partnership with Porters Paints, was sidelined by Council because of perceived heritage impacts. This would harness existing technical skills in local community.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Economic Plan for the town, that includes tourism, should be prepared to guide Braidwood’s future as heritage and history is the foundation of tourism. • Braidwood and District Historical Society wants to establish a Braidwood Heritage Centre. The architectural design would be accessible and include an event space. • Accommodation in Braidwood is limited. Heritage buildings could be adapted into accommodation. • Braidwood Connect events occurred prior to bushfires and COVID-19 and attracted a mixture of age groups. • There was previously public access to heritage sites on private land. These have become restricted, i.e. access to Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson’s grave site and reinstatement of historic pilgrimage walk that started in 1842.
Community Drop-In Session	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Braidwood community is proud of the heritage listing. • People are open to tourism opportunities that do not affect the character of the place. • There is a deep frustration from both the people that love the heritage and those that hate it. • There are many untapped resources in the town. • There are heritage/conservation skills embedded in the community, e.g. pottery makers, fitters, turners and metal workers. Heritage skills could be learnt in workshops, where people can come and learn past skills. • Tourism will support some of the smaller industries in Braidwood i.e. the local timber mill. • Changes to Braidwood need to be made with a ‘sympathetic eye’. • People that have grown up here moved away and have returned with their young kids.
Online Survey	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community would like to acknowledge Braidwood’s First Nations cultural history. • There is an opportunity to increase Braidwood’s tourism opportunities. This could be done through a revival of Braidwood’s skills, such as cider making and blacksmithing, and opening up the working homesteads to tourists. The town’s location halfway between Canberra and the coast offers enormous potential. • The consistent streetscape is important and maintains the village scale and character of Braidwood.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The businesses in Braidwood close at 3.00pm and there is nothing to do in town after this time. The town needs overnight accommodation. There have been music concerts held on weekends which should be encouraged. • The implementation of sustainable energy should be considered, including electrical charging stations, and solar panels. • The Braidwood Museum should be refurbished to showcase Braidwood’s history. • QPRC and Heritage NSW should have staff that understand Braidwood’s issues and the heritage requirements for a state listed town. • The reinstatement of public access to Dr Wilson’s grave is important. • The participants would like to see investment in Braidwood’s heritage. <p>As part of the online survey, the participants were asked to rank Braidwood’s highest priorities. The priorities were adopted from the Vision Statement and correspondence received by the Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber. The participants ranked ‘a practical approach to heritage conservation (the introduction of sympathetic guidelines for new works and services)’ and the ‘development of a heritage study or masterplan’ as the first priority for Braidwood. ‘First Nations cultural heritage’ and ‘increased government resourcing’ were considering equal second priorities for Braidwood. Following this, the participants ranked ‘reducing red tape’ and ‘economic growth and tourism’ as equal third in the list of priorities. ‘New development’ was considered the last priority for Braidwood (refer to Figure 3.1).</p> <p>Further comments provided by participants in the online survey are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More street trees should be planted to provide sun protection. • Tourism strategies should be implemented. • First Nations cultural heritage should be acknowledged as part of Braidwood’s history. • There needs to be more guidance on how owners can implement building standards to heritage items. • Future conservation of Braidwood should directly involve the heritage and history community groups based in Braidwood. • Install underground powerlines on Wallace Street. • Remove the ramps and replace them with traffic harbours.

Mode of consultation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braidwood’s monthly cattle sale continues to be the biggest income generator for the town. Other industries that thrive in Braidwood include the hospital, school, sheep and lamb production. • There is community support for heritage conservation, but not the SHR listing. • Braidwood’s ‘biggest downfall’ is its heritage listing which is impractical, restrictive and divisive. • Braidwood should be growing at the same rate as Bungendore.
Targeted Discussions	<p>The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The heritage of Braidwood and surrounds needs to include consideration of the region’s local First Nations heritage. • A strategy and plan for Braidwood’s heritage related future needs to address how the heritage listing will drive future economic benefit for the state, region and township.
Discussions with First Nations Representatives	<p>The discussions with First Nations representatives revealed there is an ongoing relationship between First Nations people and Braidwood, and the surrounding area. However, this relationship has been fractured over time and is difficult for First Nations peoples.</p> <p>One example of the continuing relationship between First Nations people and Braidwood includes their involvement in the Two Fires Festival which promotes native and local food, art and literature, local activism, Indigenous culture and regenerative farming. As part of the festival a monument known as the ‘Dhurga Rock’ was placed in Ryrie Park in May 2015. One side of the monument includes carvings of native animal totems, by a Budawang and Yuin artist. The other side includes an inscription, acknowledging the dispossession and displacement of First Nations peoples.</p> <p>The inscription reads:</p> <p>‘This rock stands as an acknowledgement that the land in the Braidwood region was occupied and cared for by the people of the Dhurga language group for tens of thousands of years before European settlement.</p> <p>Their dispossession and displacement and the resulting suffering and loss of sacred culture are deeply regretted.</p>

Mode of consultation	Comments
	We aspire to a shared future in which Aboriginal wisdom is valued and all people and the land are respected and cared for.'

Question 6: What do you think are the highest priorities for Braidwood?

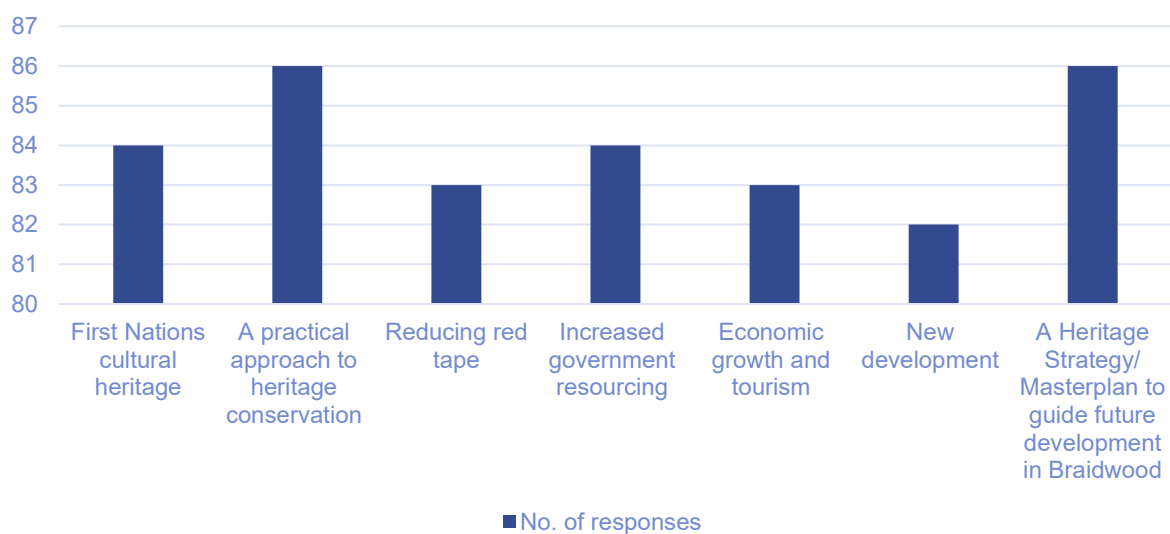


Figure 3.2 Participants’ responses to Question 6 of the online survey. (Source: GML Heritage 2022)

3.2 Key Takeaways

Several key takeaways have emerged from the comments received and highlight a broad range of issues regarding the SHR listing. These takeaways will be further developed in the next stage of the project.

Table 3.10 Key takeaways from community and stakeholder engagement.

Issues Identified	Overview
The community care deeply for Braidwood	The community were engaged in the program and shared very personal stories with the team. The impact of the SHR listing is evident and deeply felt by previous and current Braidwood residents and business owners. Many of the comments received contradicted other comments, which represents the broad range of impacts the listing has had on the community. In particular, residents who live within the curtilage and outside the curtilage have very different views of the listing. The surveys identified

Issues Identified	Overview
	the divisive nature of the listing as one of the key challenges for Braidwood.
First Nations cultural heritage	Recognition of First Nations associations and attachments to Braidwood is important. Prior to the inclusion of First Nations cultural heritage in the SHR listing, further community consultation should be undertaken. A deeper conversation about women’s sites, cold burning, totem animals and breeding cycles on the land of the Yuin Nation is required.
A breakdown of communication	There was no hesitation from the community in sharing the struggles that they have experienced with local and state government since the SHR listing in 2006. The broader community wants clarity and ongoing support from both QPRC and Heritage NSW.
A review of the planning and heritage management of Braidwood, including the SHR listing, development controls, exemptions, and assessment process	There was a clear desire to review and streamline the current planning and heritage management process. The community expressed confusion around the compliance and statutory requirements for the SHR listing. In addition, the survey revealed that the creation of practical guidelines for new development and works is seen as the highest priority for Braidwood. The participants were equally interested in the development of a heritage strategy or masterplan for the town.
Skills development, resourcing, and funding	The community expressed a desire for skills development, resourcing, and funding to assist them and to foster a sense of ownership of the town. This could be implemented through heritage grants and education material.
Long-term consultation	The participants wanted to ensure that this project and the consultation process develops into a long-term relationship with QPRC and Heritage NSW. The community would like a representative from both Heritage NSW and QPRC made available in town.
Tourism opportunities	Tourism was a consistent theme in the survey responses. A large number of the survey respondents noted tourism as Braidwood’s key opportunity. On balance, some participants noted that tourism could become overwhelming for Braidwood and create further pressures or result in a loss of authenticity. The community have suggested Braidwood’s tourism be focused on historic skills, such as blacksmithing and apple cider making, and recognise Braidwood’s social history i.e. First Nations, gold mining and Chinese migration. Development of the Braidwood Museum, as a destination, was also suggested.
Management challenges	The survey responses revealed the community is equally concerned about heritage restricting new development in

Issues Identified	Overview
	<p>Braidwood; and how to best conserve or implement sympathetic works within the SHR curtilage and surrounding areas. This indicates Braidwood is struggling to effectively manage the listing in a way that promotes both sympathetic new development and heritage conservation.</p>

4 Conclusion and Recommendations

4 Conclusion and Recommendations

This report provides an overview of the Braidwood community engagement program. It includes a summary of the issues and concerns expressed by the community and stakeholders regarding the effectiveness of the SHR listing for 'Braidwood and its Setting' along with a range of associated planning, management, and other matters. These matters are identified in Section 3.

Several other key takeaways emerged specifically from the community engagement including:

- the township and its community are held in high esteem;
- there are breakdowns in the coordination and communication between the various levels of government and the community;
- there is a lack of clarity and consistency in the statutory heritage planning, management, and development control of Braidwood;
- there is a demonstrable lack of access to technical support, advice and funding; and
- the community are active, creative, and skilled, and they seek opportunities to participate in the ongoing management, conservation, and promotion of Braidwood.

4.1 Recommendations

The following recommendations should be carried out prior to Milestone 3:

- Consider publicly releasing this Milestone 2 report for public comment following internal review by Heritage NSW. This will provide another community 'touchpoint' and help ensure the report reflects participants' views and gather further information that may be useful to the project.
- Consider an additional round of consultation with the Braidwood community and relevant stakeholders. This could involve an information session, in-person community drop-in sessions (1–2 days), including discussions with business owners and other stakeholders. Another effective engagement method could include hosting an information stall at the Braidwood markets. We suggest the engagement program should run from Thursday to Saturday, to capture a larger, more diverse local and regional audience.
- Consider undertaking further consultation with First Nations peoples that have cultural attachments to Braidwood and surrounding areas to better inform the project.
- Promote any additional consultation for this project via a letterbox drop in Braidwood in addition to the methods already utilised. This responds directly to feedback received from the community.

- Consider using different engagement techniques to find out what younger members of the community think about heritage in Braidwood.

5 Appendices

Appendix A

Braidwood Bugle Advertisement

Appendix B

Flyers Developed for Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Appendix A

Braidwood Bugle Advertisement



Image Source: Braidwood & District Historical Society

Community Information Session: Management Review of 'Braidwood and its Setting' State Heritage Register Listing

Please come along to share your views on heritage management and conservation in Braidwood.

It has been 15 years since the Georgian township of Braidwood was listed on the State Heritage Register. GML Heritage is working with Heritage NSW, to review heritage planning and management for the historic township. As part of this project, a community engagement program has been developed and there will be several opportunities for the community to get involved.

A Community Information Session is being held as part of the project to engage with local residents and other key stakeholders. The session will be held at the Braidwood Servicemans Club on **Thursday 19 May 2022** at 6:15pm.

If you are interested in participating, please register to attend the session on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/330411127577>

You can also drop-in to the Braidwood National Theatre Community Centre on **Friday 20 May 2022** between 2:00pm and 5:00pm to chat with the team.

If you would like more information about the project, please visit our website www.gml.com.au

Appendix B

Flyers Developed for Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Share your views about
Braidwood's heritage



Share your views about
Braidwood's heritage



Community & Stakeholder Consultation

15-Year Management Review of 'Braidwood and its Setting'
State Heritage Register Listing

GML Heritage is working with Heritage NSW, to review heritage planning and management for the historic township of Braidwood. We have developed a community and stakeholder consultation program as part of Milestone 2 of this project. There are several opportunities for the community to get involved:

Community Information Session

Join us at Braidwood Servicemens Club & Golf Course on **Thursday 19 May 2022** at 6:15pm.

Community Drop-in Session

Visit the team at the Braidwood National Theatre on **Friday 20 May 2022**, between 2:00pm and 5:00pm.

Complete the Online Survey

The survey is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YJ32QXG> and GML's website.

The survey period will close on **31 May 2022**.

If you would like more information about this project, go to our website:
<https://www.gml.com.au/news/share-your-views-about-braidwoods-heritage/>



Heritage NSW



Heritage NSW



There is still time to share
your views about
Braidwood's heritage



Community & Stakeholder Consultation

15-Year Management Review of 'Braidwood and its Setting'
State Heritage Register Listing

GML Heritage is working with Heritage NSW, to review heritage planning and management for the historic township of Braidwood. We have developed a community and stakeholder consultation program as part of Milestone 2 of this project.

We held a Community Information Session at Braidwood Servicemens Club & Golf Course on Thursday 19 May 2022 and Stakeholder Workshops and a Community Drop-in Session at the Braidwood National Theatre on Friday 20 May 2022. We would like to thank all those who participated.

If you would like to share your thoughts about Braidwood's heritage you still have time to complete the online survey.

The online survey is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YJ32QXG>

The survey period has been extended to Sunday, 19 June 2022.

If you would like more information about this project, go to our website:

<https://www.gml.com.au/news/share-your-views-about-braidwoods-heritage/>



Heritage NSW

