

All Things Sustainability Winter 2024



In this edition...

We look at a fantastic solar project in Braidwood, examine the SunSpot tool for households, look at our upcoming Biodiversity Month events, discuss EV charging fees, and celebrate our photo competition winners! We invite you to explore our newsletter and share to your contacts. If you have any enquiries, reach out to the Environmental Health and Biosecurity team at 1300 735 025 or sustainability@qprc.nsw.gov.au

Biodiversity month

Biodiversity Month is celebrated every September and promotes connecting with nature and caring for biodiversity. Biodiversity is the variety of all life on earth - animals, plants, and other organisms.

Australia is one of only 17 countries that are considered "mega-diverse", and we host a wide variety of unique biodiversity. Protecting our biodiversity is important to our health, community, and economy. QPRC is hosting several events to celebrate our local biodiversity. Please see the event details below - we hope to see you there!

Bungendore Event

Date: Sunday 15 September **Time:** 9am-12pm

Meeting Point: Corner Butmaroo St and Turallo TCE

Turallo Creek is in the middle of a long-term restoration project. Come along to plant some native trees and help rehabilitate the creek. A morning tea will be provided, and people are asked to wear enclosed shoes and sun protection.

Find out more at our [events page](#), or contact Emery Joseph at emery.joseph@qprc.nsw.gov.au



Queanbeyan Events

QPRC are partnering with Queanbeyan Landcare to host some fantastic events!

National Wattle Day Walk

Date: Sunday 1 September **Time:** 10am-12pm

Meeting Point: Mount Jerrabomberra Carpark, Jerrabomberra Hill Road (off Halloran Drive).

Biodiversity Walk

Date: Sunday 29 September **Time:** 10am-12pm

Meeting Point: Bicentennial Park, Carpark at 57a Crest Park Parade, Queanbeyan West

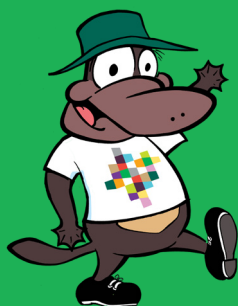
Find out more at our [events page](#), or contact Emery Joseph at emery.joseph@qprc.nsw.gov.au



World Wildlife Day Photography Competition

We recently held a photography competition to celebrate World Wildlife Day - we received over 70 fantastic entries, and prizes were given out to several talented young photographers. The winning entry (pictured above) was taken by Eadie Fraser. Find the winners of other categories and see all fantastic entries at <https://bit.ly/QPRC-photo-comp>

Citizen Science: Report Your Platypus and Rakali Sightings



Did you know there are several platypus in QPRC's rivers? You might see the distinctive ring-shaped ripples in the water first, that means they're diving for food. Keep your eyes peeled and get a camera ready! You might also see one of our resident rakali in the river - look for the distinctive, white-tipped tail.

Do a bit of citizen science and help us look after our unique wildlife! Record your sightings at our website at bit.ly/QPRC-Platypus-Rakali or contact our team at platypus@qprc.nsw.gov.au.

Sunspot Tool

The Australian Government recently launched its [Solar Consumer Guide](#) featuring Australia's cleverest consumer solar and battery calculator, [SunSPOT](#).

Sunspot is a solar and battery calculator that estimates your system size, the cost, and how much you'll save.

It provides free step-by-step independent advice to help households and small businesses get the most out of rooftop solar and batteries. It will help in making confident and informed decisions.

The Solar Consumer Guide helps with:

- finding out what solar system size you need, and the costs and savings to be made (using SunSPOT),
- finding rebates you're eligible for,
- explaining how solar makes savings on your bills,
- the basics of solar technology,
- options for the solar system's design,
- how to find a reputable solar company,
- what details to look for in the quote, and questions you should ask the company, and
- what to do in the event a problem arises.



Have Your Say: EV Charging Fee

There's a few days left to have your say about council's proposed Electric Vehicle Charging Fee. We are aiming to increase the availability of EV charging infrastructure across the LGA to support the transition to electric vehicles.

We currently have 12 public EV charging stations, including 10 at the Lowe Street Carpark in Queanbeyan and 2 at Googong Common. Council has proposed a fee of \$0.60 per kWh (GST inclusive) which will be regularly reviewed to keep it competitive while allowing us to recoup costs.

Find out more and have your say on [Your Voice](#).



Braidwood and Surrounds Emergency and Evacuation Preparedness

Working closely with S355 committees, PV Solar Systems with Battery Storage have been installed in five Community Halls in Braidwood and the surrounding areas, for a total of 63.6kW Solar Systems, and 67.4kWh in Battery Storage. In addition, new toilets have been constructed at Braidwood Showground. This project has enhanced our community halls to better act as refuges and logistical centres during emergency events like bushfire.

This project was made possible through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Package, jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments in association with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.

