



## Libraries Board Meeting Minutes

State Library of South Australia

13 February, 2023 at 10:00 AM ACDT

@ Bronwyn Halliday Learning Studio, State Library North Terrace (or via Teams)

Minutes No. 877

### **Attendance**

#### **Present:**

Members: Bruce Linn, Megan Berghuis (remote), Joanne Cys, Janet Finlay, Joost den Hartog, Hedy Hashemi, Amanda Nettelbeck (remote), Geoff Strempe, Jo Bayly, Hanlie Erasmus, Luba Cvetanovic, Sarah Hallandal

#### **Absent:**

Members: Scott Hicks

#### 1. \* WELCOME (Presenters: Bruce Linn)

The Chair reported that Scott Hicks term as a Board member ends in May, discussions will occur with the Minister for his replacement.

##### 1.1. Present / Apologies

Scott Hicks

##### 1.2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair made an acknowledgement of Country, using the official state government acknowledgement.

##### 1.3. Conflict of Interest

The following items were disclosed:

1. Hedy Hashemi's new role in relation to Item 6.4
2. The Electoral Commission has very recently found a significant number of elected local government council members had failed to make disclosures following the 2022 election. The Chair advised that Joost den Hartog had disclosed that he is one of these council members. The Chair further advised that, having consulted with the Minister, noting that Joost is a ministerial appointment (at the recommendation of the Local Government Association), and that Joost continues to satisfy the requirements of the Act, that he is comfortable for Joost to continue on the Board until due process takes place or the matter is resolved.

#### **Motion:**

The Libraries Board noted the disclosures.

Motion moved by Janet Finlay and motion seconded by Joanne Cys.

#### 2. \* STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS (Presenters: Bruce Linn)

All non-starred items be received, and all recommendations contained therein are adopted and carried.

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### 3. \* MINUTES

#### 3.1. Minutes of previous meeting (Presenters: Bruce Linn)

**Motion:**

That the minutes of the Libraries Board meeting held on 12 December 2022 be confirmed.

Motion moved by Joanne Cys and motion seconded by Amanda Nettelbeck.

#### 3.2. Action Items (Presenters: Bruce Linn)

#### 3.3. Matters dealt with out of session

No matters were dealt with out of session.

### 4. \* STRATEGIC MATTERS (Presentation, Key Strategy Updates)

#### 4.1. History of government funds for Public and State Libraries (Presenters: Geoff Stempel)

The Chair made some general observations and gave a preamble to the discussions about the funding challenges the Libraries Board has dealt with over the past few years.

The Director gave an overview of the three reports that included the history, the impact of budget reductions and what can be addressed for the future.

Associate Director, Public Library and Corporate Services spoke on how the impact of this year's Public Libraries proposed cuts are going to be offset. One of the areas will be the wastage through the materials budget, in particular the 'Dead on Arrival' figures of material no one borrows. It was noted that Public Library Services will be able to absorb some funding reductions if this eventuates.

The Board members discussed the reports and made the following recommendations.

The Libraries Board to:

- note the three papers (Item 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3) and the possible impact of these implications for the State Library and Public Libraries funding.
- request the update of the December 2022 Thriving Libraries - next steps document, and table at the March Board meeting.
- the Director to actively work on a communication and negotiation strategy to table at the March Board meeting
- request a meeting with the Local Government Association and the Minister.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board notes the historic background to the current and future funding for the State Library and the public libraries grant.

Motion moved by Amanda Nettelbeck and motion seconded by Hedy Hashemi.

#### 4.2. The impact of possible budget reductions on State and public library activities (Presenter: Geoff Stempel)

Refer to Item 4.1

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**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board notes the impact of past and future funding reductions on the State and public libraries.

Motion moved by Amanda Nettelbeck and motion seconded by Hedy Hashemi.

- 4.3. Confirming the process for consultation regarding changes in library network funding and future directions (Presenter: Geoff Stempel)

Refer to Item 4.1

**Motion:**

That further to its deliberations at its December workshop, the Libraries Board engages with its stakeholders to explicitly resolve current and future potential funding challenges as well as developing a new framework for the funding and operation of all libraries in the State.

Motion moved by Amanda Nettelbeck and motion seconded by Hedy Hashemi.

5. FINANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

- 5.1. Summary Report of Finance and Risk Committee

No report. The next Finance and Risk Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 22 February 2023.

6. \* PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

- 6.1. Summary Report of Public Libraries Committee

No report. The next Public Libraries Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 28 February 2023

- 6.2. School Community Library Funding Review - Stakeholder Engagement  
(Presenters: Hanlie Erasmus)

Associate Director, Public Library and Corporate Services spoke on the consultation process in the paper.

The Board discussed the School Community Library Funding Options paper and noted the collaboration with the Local Government Association and Department for Education.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board:

- Notes the contents of this report regarding the School Community Library Funding Review project.
- The School Community Library Funding Review - Stakeholder Engagement paper to be tabled at the March 2023 Board meeting for decision making in alignment with the Board funding strategy.

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Motion moved by Joanne Cys and motion seconded by Janet Finlay.

### 6.3. Libraries Board Innovation Fund 2023-2024 (Presenters: Hanlie Erasmus)

Associate Director, Public Library and Corporate Services spoke to report outlining the proposed changes to the Innovation Fund Guidelines for the 2023-2024 funding round, the focus will be encouraging innovative digital literacy and inclusion initiatives across South Australia.

An update on the outcomes from the first round of the Innovation Fund will be tabled at the Libraries Board August 2023 meeting.

#### **Motion:**

That the Libraries Board approves the focus on digital literacy, and the aligned amended guidelines for the Libraries Board Innovation Fund 2023-2024.

Motion moved by Megan Berghuis and motion seconded by Hedy Hashemi. All in favour

### 6.4. Libraries Board member to be appointed to Public Libraries Committee (Presenters: Hanlie Erasmus)

The Chair advised that with Hedy Hashemi changing roles from Walkerville Council to City of Port Adelaide Enfield there is currently an over representation on the Public Libraries Committee from the City of Port Adelaide Enfield Council. The Chair advised that Hedy had agreed to resign from the committee and that he will fill attend the Public Libraries Committee meetings until the upcoming Board vacancy is filled.

## 7. PHILANTHROPIC STEERING COMMITTEE

No matters

## 8. \* DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Presenters: Geoff Strempel)

The Director, Geoff Strempel, provided a verbal update to the Libraries Board, which included the following:

- Visit by Minister (with Board Deputy Chair)
- Visit by Arts Shadow Minister (with Board Deputy Chair)
- Cultural Institutions Storage Project
- Building Works for Spence Level 2
- City of Adelaide Visitor Experience Centre
- Interim arrangements with Australia Hire Company to manage private events at the Library
- Voluntary Separations Packages
- Yankalilla Library opening
- Advertising of Associate Director, State Library Services
- Change in services model and structure of Services Team
- Temporary closure of the Reading Room for three hours on Monday 6 February 2023
- Closure of the Research Library for one hour on Tuesday 21 February 2023 for a staff briefing
- Christmas tree attracted 35,000 visitors, this included coverage through Channel 7, school choirs and story time events

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The Chair noted the article about the State Library's Mortlock Chamber being voted one of the 25 most beautiful libraries in the world.

**Motion:**

The Libraries Board noted the verbal report provided.

Motion moved by Joanne Cys and motion seconded by Megan Berghuis.

8.1. Any 'For Decision' items that may arise from Director's Report

9. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DECISION

10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. Libraries Board Metropolitan Tour Itinerary - 14 March 2023

11. \* ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Closed at 11.58am

12. \* DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Libraries Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14 March 2023. The meeting will be held in the Bronwyn Halliday Learning Studio, at the end of the Metropolitan Tour.

Chair: .....

Date: .....