

Libraries Board Meeting Minutes

State Library of South Australia

Monday 1 September 2025 10:00 am ACST

@ Meeting Room 2, State Library, North Terrace

Attendance

Present:

Members: Bruce Linn (Chair), Andrew Culley, Joanne Cys, Joost den Hartog, Helen Hennessy (remote), Kedeisha Kartinyeri, Bridget Mather (remote), Amanda Nettelbeck (remote),

In Attendance: Megan Berghuis, Jo Bayly, Hanlie Erasmus, Cassidy Jenkins

Guests: Elizabeth Davies, Director Human Foundations

Absent: Amanda Osborne

1. * WELCOME (Presenters: Bruce Linn)

1.1. Present / Apologies

1.2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair made an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3. Conflict of Interest

There was no conflict of interest, but it was noted that Joost den Hartog's partner is involved with the DPC master plan for the North Terrace Cultural Precinct project (Item 4.2) and the Adelaide Festival Centre (item 4.1).

2. * STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

All non-starred items be received, and all recommendations contained therein are adopted and carried. Noted that Item 4 should be starred.

Motion:

3. * MINUTES

3.1. Minutes of previous meeting

Motion:

The minutes of the Libraries Board meeting held on 4 August 2025 be confirmed.

Motion moved by Helen Hennessy and motion seconded by Andrew Culley.

Carried.

3.2. Action Items

- One action item remains outstanding, relating to Philanthropic Strategy
- The Board is addressing this item during the current meeting (item 4.1)

- This action will be closed and replaced with a new action for the Steering Group to be reestablished to provide feedback on the report and recommend a proposed course of action.

4. STRATEGIC MATTERS (Presentation, Key Strategy Updates)

4.1. Libraries Board Philanthropic Strategy

Elizabeth Davis, Director Human Foundations presented the Libraries Board Philanthropic Strategy report.

- Elizabeth Davis presented a comprehensive report on re-establishing a philanthropic foundation for the State Library
- She is highly experienced in the philanthropic sector and has worked with major foundations nationally
- The previous State Library Foundation faltered; this review aimed to assess whether appetite exists to re-establish it and recommend a way forward to the Board to secure future philanthropic funding.
- Elizabeth confirmed that appetite does exist, based on stakeholder interviews
- Proposed a Council of Governors model with 6–7 corporate/philanthropic individuals
- Capital campaign target suggested \$8–10 million income over 5–10 years
- Emphasis on:
 - Strong name, vision, mission, and objectives
 - Independent from Libraries Board
 - Serving both the State Library and the Public Libraries of South Australia
 - Balanced portfolio of projects (e.g. Mortlock, digital literacy, regional initiatives)
 - Skilled staff and CRM system required for relationship management
 - Stewardship and donor engagement as critical success factors
- Budget will need to be provided for at least first two years, large initial non-recoverable outlay
- SLSA has DGR status in Cat 1 & 4; Foundation & Friends have Cat 2.
- Risks and vulnerabilities identified, including visibility and competition for philanthropic dollars
- Independent structure recommended over embedding within administration
- Importance of regional inclusion and digital literacy programs highlighted
- Suggested use of high-profile ambassadors for specific work packages
- Board discussion raised:
 - Concerns about visibility, diversity, and ethical considerations
 - Need for broader suite of fundraising options beyond philanthropy
 - Philosophical discomfort with traditional models
 - Importance of governance and due diligence
 - Potential for soft start rather than full-scale launch
 - Opportunities for sponsorship, social impact statements, and commercialisation
- Subcommittee (the Chair, Andrew Culley, Joost den Hartog, Director and Associate Director) to review and return recommendations to the Board in early 2026
- Action item to be closed and replaced with a broader income generation strategy
- Mortlock Bequest (received in 1979) noted as a successful legacy; potential to evolve into a fund

Motion:

The Libraries Board:

- Receive the draft report provided by Ms Elizabeth Davis, Director, Human Foundations, to advise on the Board's future philanthropic strategy.
- Provide feedback to Ms Davis to enable the report to be finalised.
- Re-activate and determine the membership of a Libraries Board working group to finalise the report, fully consider the recommendations, and determine the next steps and also consider the full gamut of income generation, with the subcommittee to discuss and return findings to the Board.

Motion moved by Joost den Hartog and motion seconded by Joanne Cys.
Carried.

4.2. Cultural Precinct Master Planning

Jo Bayly, as Associate Director of State Library of South Australia spoke to the Cultural Precinct Master Planning report.

Motion:

The Libraries Board note and supports the project initiated by the Department for the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to develop a master plan for the North Terrace Cultural Precinct.

Motion moved by Helen Hennessy and motion seconded by Kedeisha Kartinyeri.
Carried.

5. * FINANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

5.1. Summary Report of Finance and Risk Committee Meeting

No report. The next Finance and Risk Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 25 September 2025.

5.2. Libraries Board Annual Report 2024/25

Megan Berghuis, as Director State Library of South Australia spoke to the Libraries Board Annual Report 2024/25.

- Confirmed that a couple of minor amendments have been identified and will be corrected
- Clarified that the "1000 Libraries" award belongs in the current financial year's report

Motion:

The Libraries Board:

- Approves the draft Libraries Board of South Australia Annual Report 2024-2025 (Attachment 1) for submission to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) for review; and

- Grants approval to the Director State Library of South Australia to finalise the Libraries Board of South Australia Annual Report 2024-25 subject to any changes required by the Board and DPC and any minor editorial changes.

Motion moved by Joanne Cys and motion seconded by Andrew Culley.
Carried.

6. * PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

6.1. Summary Report of Public Libraries Committee Meeting

No report. The next Public Libraries Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15 October 2025.

6.2. End of Year Customer Research Report 2024/25

Hanlie Erasmus, as Associate Director State Library of South Australia spoke to the End of Year Customer Research Report 2024/25.

- The report indicates a positive trend and continued improvement in customer satisfaction
- Public libraries are consistently meeting the needs of customers across the state
- Regional libraries show strong alignment with metro performance
- Demographic representation in survey responses was noted as an area for improvement
- Plans are underway to introduce manual survey options in libraries to increase accessibility and inclusivity
- Field agent will provide advice on how manual feedback collection can be implemented
- The current survey cycle is nearing completion
- A full review of the data is planned for January–February 2026 to identify areas for service adjustment
- Other states are adopting similar survey methods, enabling future benchmarking
- Concern raised about declining response rates. Diversifying data collection methods is expected to help mitigate this
- The next survey will include targeted audiences and more specific feedback objectives
- Previous years included two reminders to customers; this year's reminder was dropped due to funding constraints
- Interest expressed in understanding what customers are doing during their visits to community centres
- Opportunity identified to explore this further during the upcoming regional tour

Motion:

The Libraries Board notes the findings of the End of Year Customer Research Report 2024/25 and endorses its use to inform future service planning and strategic initiatives.

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

7. * ONE CARD 2.0 COLLECTIONS REFORM PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE

7.1. Summary Report of One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Committee Meeting

Andrew Culley, as Chair One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Program Steering Committee spoke to the summary report from the Committee's meeting on 18 August 2025.

- Proposed development of a future collection funding strategy
- Recognised that the operating model has evolved since the committee's inception
- Suggested rolling activities into a business case to present to the Steering Committee and subsequently to the Board
- The proposal generated positive discussion, with key questions and considerations captured
- Emphasis placed on stakeholder management, particularly with councils, librarians, and library staff
- Identified priority modules to bring forward, including materials management and acquisitions
- LMS evaluation continues, with focus on alignment with current business priorities
- Regional considerations and engagement were highlighted as essential to successful implementation

Motion:

The Libraries Board note the summary report of the 18 August 2025 Committee meeting and approves the resolutions recommended by the One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Steering Committee.

Motion moved by Andrew Culley and motion seconded by Bridget Mather.
Carried.

8. * DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director, Megan Berghuis, provided a verbal update to the Libraries Board, which included the following:

Little Library Progress update:

- Finalising documentation for tender, noting expected delays in project delivery due to procurement and contract navigation
- Adelaide City Council discussions – City Libraries and Visitor Experience
 - Negotiations are progressing positively
 - License and other contractual agreements continue to be negotiated, currently working with the Crown Solicitors office who are providing feedback and advice.
- Mortlock carpet replacement is nearing completion
- Project Plans are being developed for the new Strategic Plan and First Nations Strategy

Motion:

The Libraries Board noted the verbal update provided.

Motion moved and motion seconded. Carried.

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 Regional Tour Itinerary - 23-24 October 2025

10.2. The Public Libraries Committee meeting scheduled for 15 October 2025 will be held online

10.2.1. Helen Hennessy to act as Chair

11. * ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Libraries Board meeting is scheduled for Friday 26 September 2025 at 10:00am to consider the 'Audited Financial Statements 2024/25'.

Meeting closed at 12:00pm

Chair:

Date: