

Libraries Board Meeting Minutes

State Library of South Australia
Monday 1 December 2025 10:00am ACST
@ Meeting Room 2, State Library, North Terrace

Minutes no. 908

Attendance

Present:

Members: Bruce Linn (Chair), Andrew Culley, Joanne Cys, Joost den Hartog, Helen Hennessy, Bridget Mather

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

Guests: Minister Michaels, Emma de Davari, Tim Agius

Absent: Kedeisha Kartinyeri, Amanda Nettelbeck, Amanda Osborne

1. WELCOME

1.1. Present / Apologies

- Minister Michaels, Minister for Small and Family, Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts
- Emma de Davari, Arts Advisor
- Tim Agius, Chair, Aboriginal Reference Group
- Amanda Nettelbeck (Apology)
- Kedeisha Kartinyeri (Apology)

1.2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair made an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3. Conflict of Interest

There was no conflict of interest.

2. STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

All items are starred.

3. MINUTES

3.1. *Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion:

The minutes of the Libraries Board meeting held on 23 October 2025 and Out of Session Approval be confirmed.

Motion moved by Helen Hennessy and motion seconded by Bridget Mather.

Carried.

3.2. Action Items

- Item to remain on Board Actions List

4. STRATEGIC MATTERS (Presentation, Key Strategy Updates)

4.1. Discussion with Minister Michaels – Brief Discussion and Q&A

Minister's Remarks:

- Minister Michaels is visiting statutory authorities to thank Board members for their service.
- Commended the State Library's achievements, expressing excitement for the Little Library initiative.
- Confirmed upcoming quarterly meeting with the Chair and Director.
- Indicated willingness to hear issues not raised in regular meetings.

Board Discussion:

- Joanne Cys highlighted that the Library and other cultural institutions along the boulevard undertake work beyond traditional arts, emphasising that the State Library serves the community in diverse ways, not solely cultural.
- The Chair reiterated the Board's commitment to maintaining the Cultural Boulevard as a unified precinct, noting improved cross collaboration and also building ties with other agencies eg DHS.
- Andrew Culley queried progress on Create-SA and Place to Create. Minister advised legislation introduced to Parliament next week after two years of work, with positive feedback and increased collaboration.

Questions and Updates:

- Tim raised concerns about the rate of digitisation of Aboriginal records, citing limited resourcing and friction over access. Minister acknowledged this as a strategic priority in the upcoming plan, stressing its importance for identity and heritage.
- The Director confirmed that the new Strategic Plan 2026 will address these issues.
- The Chair acknowledged Kedeisha Kartinyeri's leadership on First Nations initiatives and her attendance at the Aboriginal Reference Group.
- Suggestions included precinct-wide collaboration on digitisation, along with opportunities to apply for funding through Department of Treasury and Finance.

Additional Points:

- Discussion noted the decade long focus on Project 2025 (digitising at risk media assets) and the opportunity to pivot toward other digitisation priorities.
 - Challenges identified: converting and storing digitised content.

4.2. *Summary Report of One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Steering 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 20 October 2025:

- One Card has operated for 13 years as a consortium delivering shared services; the program aims to mature the program amid tighter budgets and rising customer expectations.
- Objectives include reviewing funding model, leveraging technology, improving physical and digital collection use, and determining required staff expertise and resourcing models for acquisition.
- Several projects are underway, including LMS Evaluation, digital futures initiatives and investment in BI tools for collection usage insights.
- Business cases are being developed to identify and rationalize changes proposals and ensure sustainability.

- Principles for OC2.0: customer centric, open access approach, network wide consistency, leveraging expertise, and equitable service delivery across 140 sites.
- Savings achieved, consortium structure review and LMS implementation will continue in parallel over the next two years.
- Discussion noted the need for stakeholder engagement, sustainable funding, and opportunities to combine State Library and public library platforms.
- Minister acknowledged progress and highlighted digital equity challenges; Hanlie confirmed State Government as primary funder.
- Emphasis on using powerful data responsibly, managing change for isolated professions, and involving CEOs in strategic conversations.

One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Program – Program Status

Resolution: The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board approves the highlight report for the period ending 30 September 2025, including activities completed and planned.

Business Case Progress Update.

Resolution: The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board notes the Business Case Progress Update.

LibrariesSA Collection Spend and Usage Data

Resolution: The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board notes the report on LibrariesSA Collection Spend and Usage Data.

Public Library Services – Physical Content Provision

Resolution: The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board notes the report on the procurement process for the ongoing provision of physical library content for the South Australian One Card Consortium.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board note the summary report of the 20 October 2025 Committee meeting and approves the resolutions recommended by the One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Steering Committee, as detailed below.

Motion moved by Andrew Culley and motion seconded by Joost den Hartog. Carried.

The Minister left the meeting at 10.34am.

4.3. *Update from Mr Tim Agius, Chair, Aboriginal Reference Group

- Thanked the Board for the opportunity to connect and expressed excitement about future collaboration.
- Shared personal background; born in Yorke Peninsula, decades long career in Aboriginal health and policy reform, including leadership roles in SA, NT, NSW, and Canberra.
- Highlighted lifelong commitment to community advocacy, improved open access to records and truth-telling, noting involvement in establishing the first Aboriginal legal and health services.
- Emphasised the Aboriginal Reference Group's role in guiding the State Library and supporting communities seeking accurate history and access to records.

- Stressed importance of correcting historical inaccuracies, prioritising projects, and creating a strategic directions document to maintain focus and measure impact.
 - Noted scattered historical records, including mission and reserve documentation, and the need for improved access for families and researchers.
- Shared that international interest in the Aboriginal Reference Group's work positions South Australia as a global leader in truth telling initiatives.
- Acknowledged emotional challenges for communities learning true history but affirmed the healing potential of transparency.
- Expressed optimism about the journey ahead and the opportunity to strengthen engagement with the Board.
- The Chair thanked Mr Agius for his leadership and contribution and confirmed the Board's desire for ongoing collaboration.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board notes the verbal update provided by Tim Agius, Chair, Aboriginal Reference Group.

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

4.4. *More than Books - Libraries on the Frontline

Hanlie Erasmus, Associate Director, spoke to the More than Books - Libraries on the Frontline report:

- Noted that the ASU report contained some gaps but acknowledged that the evolution of public libraries into vital community hubs has been recognised.
- Highlighted growing demand for services that go far beyond the original and traditional remit of libraries, such as social support and community engagement, noting many councils also provide these through community centres and community development.
- Confirmed that the State Government is the primary funder for the One Card consortium and stressed the importance of protecting current funding, given that funding is subject to savings targets and cost pressures.
- Observed that while extra funding is needed, the increasing expectations placed on public libraries raise the question of whether councils and communities should expect libraries to take on additional roles without separate, strategic funding and also calls for councils to consider these services and programs through a whole of council lens, taking into account other social services and infrastructure.
- Suggested that this presents an opportunity to review funding arrangements during future funding reviews and identify other potential opportunities.
- Emphasised the need to understand how libraries can manage these expanded roles without compromising their core remit.
- It was noted that the research sample for the ASU report was limited and as a result may have contained bias. Additionally, the report lacked evidence to properly substantiate the claims included.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

- Notes the findings and recommendations of the “*More Than Books – Libraries on the Frontline*” Report
- Advocates for continued investment in the One Card Consortium to support the delivery of public and State Library services.
- Supports a critical, evidence-based approach to future funding and policy development lead by the Libraries Board of South Australia.

Motion moved by Helen Hennessy and motion seconded by Joost den Hartog.
Carried.

5. FINANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

5.1. *Summary Report of Finance and Risk Committee Meeting

Bridget Mather, Chair, Finance and Risk Committee, spoke to the Summary Report of Finance and Risk Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2025.

Financial Performance Summary – Period Ending 30 September 2025

Resolution: The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board notes the financial performance summary for the period ending 30 September 2025, including major variations and explanatory notes.

Trust Funds Investment Report Period Ending 28 October 2025

Resolution: The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board:

- Updates the signatories for Macquarie portfolio management.
- Accepts the October 2025 investment recommendations.
- Notes the need to follow up on return projections with Macquarie.

Work Health and Safety Update 2025

Resolution: The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board notes the WHS report, with updates to be provided to the Board every six months.

Risk Appetite Statement Review

Resolution: The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board considers the risk appetite statement, with feedback to be incorporated prior to final approval.

Finance and Risk Committee Terms of Reference Review

Resolution: The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board approves the revised Terms of Reference and associated documents.

Treasurer’s Instruction 11 (TI 11) – Payment of Invoices and Claims

Resolution: The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board notes the performance report on payments.

Library Management System (LMS) Contractual Risk Assessment

Resolution: The Committee recommends the Libraries Board endorses the proposed contractual arrangements for the LMS and notes the ongoing risk assessment and mitigation strategies.

Motion:

The Committee recommends that the Libraries Board note the summary report of the 14 November 2025 meeting and approves the resolutions as detailed above.

Motion moved by Bridget Mather and motion seconded by Joanne Cys. Carried.

6. PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

6.1. *Summary Report of Public Libraries Committee Meeting

Helen Hennessy, Chair, Public Libraries Committee, spoke to the Summary Report of Public Libraries Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2025.

Participating Organisations LMS Agreement – Legal Advice

Resolution: That the Public Libraries Committee:

- Request the LGA to engage legal advice to review the proposed new Participating Organisations LMS Agreement on behalf of their member councils.
- Request that the LGA legal advice lawyers provide written advice to the PLC and PLS including any recommended amendments.
- Request that the LGA provides a letter of support for the Agreement, to be distributed to council CEOs alongside the Board's request for signature, to facilitate timely and confident execution of the new agreement.

Summary Report - One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Program Update

Resolution: That the Public Libraries Committee notes this report.

Firstfival Evaluation 2025

Resolution: That the Public Libraries Committee notes:

- The outcomes of Firstfival 2025, including collaborative programming that drove membership, engagement, and public awareness.
- That PLSA has committed to supporting Firstfival for a further two years.

Public Library Services - Physical Library Content Provision

Resolution: The Public Libraries Committee notes the commencement of the procurement process for the ongoing provision of physical library content for the South Australian One Card Consortium.

- Resignation of Tania Paull accepted; nominations for a new candidate are pending.
- Temporary overlap noted between Public Libraries Committee and One Card 2.0 Committee; both considered critical to strategic priorities.
- Director emphasised need for clearer delineation of roles between PLS and PLSA, noting confusion during consultations. Strategic plan will address governance clarity.
- The Chair thanked Joost for serving as interim Chair prior to Helen's appointment.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board note the summary report of the Wednesday 19 November 2025 Committee meeting and approves the resolutions recommended by the Public Libraries Committee.

Motion moved by Helen Hennessy and motion seconded by Joost den Hartog.
Carried.

7. ONE CARD 2.0 COLLECTIONS REFORM STEERING COMMITTEE

7.1. *One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Steering Committee Terms of Reference Review

Motion:

That the Board approves the Committee endorsed One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Steering Committee Terms of Reference as at 20 November 2025 and authorises staff to finalise the administrative requirements subject to any recommended changes by the Board.

Motion moved and motion seconded. Carried.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

will be sent via email via circular and endorsed at the Feb meeting

9. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DECISION

9.1. *Huy & Huy Ltd Café Licence Renewal

Jo Bayly, Associate Director, spoke to the Huy & Huy Café Licence Renewal report.

- Current licence agreement expires at the end of January 2026.
- The current licence holder has met all requirements, secured permanent residency, and established a pathway for compliance.
- Intention is to explore the market next year to support the Board's income generation strategy, with the issue of an EOI/Request for Proposal
- Retail opportunities are also being explored as part of broader revenue initiatives.
- Active communication will be maintained with the current licence holder to explain the market approach and offer support, ensuring they are not discouraged.
- Proposal includes securing a 12-month licence agreement to extend operations through January 2027, allowing time for transition planning.
- City Library and VEC teams will be involved in discussions to align strategy.
- Jo Bayly expects to return to the Board around October 2026 with progress updates.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

- Approves a one-year extension of the State Library Café licence agreement to Huy & Huy Ltd, from 1st February 2026 to 31 January 2027.
- Authorises the State Library Director to execute a Deed of Variation on behalf of the Libraries Board.

Motion moved by Joost den Hartog and motion seconded by Bridget Mather.
Carried.

9.2. *Writers SA - Licence Agreement Renewal

Jo Bayly, Associate Director, spoke to the Writers SA - Licence Agreement Renewal Report.

- Licence agreement is due for renewal; Writers SA approached the State Library to explore options.
- Organisation is under increasing operating pressure with escalating costs.
- The Director and Associate Director met to review options and implications.
- Current licence covers the previous Director's office and the Board Room; Writers SA is proposing to release the Board Room space from the licence.
- Financial implications noted for the Board, but Writers SA is strategically important given the Create-SA initiative and the Library's role in supporting creators.
- Partnership positions the State Library as a supporter of emerging writers, illustrators, and readers.
- Whilst reduction in income noted, Writers SA has potential to be a long-term partner.
- A deed of variation will be required; partnership agreement may take a different shape moving forward.
- Writers SA also partners with City Library; discussions needed on future arrangements with all parties working from the same location.
- In the interim, negotiations will focus on reducing costs for Writers SA while ensuring licence agreement provides confidence.
- Space will be added back to the State Library's bookable schedule, creating opportunities for events and activations.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

- Approves a two-year renewal of the Writers SA licence agreement from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.
- Approves a reduction in the premises occupied by Writers SA from 102sqm to 62sqm.
- Notes ongoing discussion between the Library and Writers SA to explore meaningful opportunities to partner and collaborate.

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

Carried.

9.3. *Book Challenge - Accessibility of Sexually Explicit Books to Minors

Hanlie Erasmus, Associate Director, spoke to the Book Challenge - Accessibility of Sexually Explicit Books to Minors report.

- Complaint received requesting the Board to use its powers under the Act to set conditions for books deemed sexually explicit.
- Associate Director met with the complainant, who expressed genuine concern about minors accessing such material and urged the Board to take action.
- Advised that the Board will not deviate from its established policy and noted limited options beyond current procedures.
- As part of the physical procurement process, vendors and publishers will be reminded of their responsibility to ensure books are classified appropriately.
- The Board considered the risks associated with the complainant's request to apply content warnings on the covers of publicly challenged titles. After deliberation, the

Board decided against introducing such warnings, as they could act as a form of censorship, influencing attitudes and restricting access through subjective decisions. Content warnings contradict the principles of fair access and independent thought, and could potentially lead to public criticism and legal disputes if deemed discriminatory."

- Helen suggested distributing it to all library managers with a cover letter and also to council CEOs to assist in addressing similar issues.
- Hanlie will respond to the complainant following the Board meeting.
- Confirmed that system checks can verify book locations, and corrective action can be taken if items are incorrectly placed.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

1. Approves the recommended standard shelf locations for challenged titles across LibrariesSA, as outlined in Table 3.
2. Approves continued due diligence for future book challenges to ensure compliance with applicable Federal and State legislation and policies.
3. Upholds the Libraries Board's commitment to intellectual freedom, equitable access, and compliance with legislative compliance.
4. Considers Ms Angela Rojas request for content warnings to be applied on book covers of titles which have been challenged by the public across the consortium
5. Supports the exploration of an additional collection category (Young Adult 15+) with the aim to establish a clear, age-appropriate progression for materials intended for older teens.

Motion moved by Bridget Mather and motion seconded by Joost den Hartog.
Carried unanimously.

10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NOTING

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Libraries Board meeting is scheduled for Monday 2 February 2026 at 10.30am in Meeting Room 2, State Library, following the Risk Management Framework & Investment Policy Workshop prior.

Meeting closed at 12pm.

Chair:

Date: