



# Libraries Board Meeting Minutes

State Library of South Australia  
Monday 2 February 2026 10:00am ACDT  
@ Meeting Room 2, State Library, North Terrace

Minutes no. 909

## Attendance

### Present:

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

**In Attendance:** Megan Berghuis, Hanlie Erasmus, Amanda Osborne, Cassidy Jenkins

**Guests:** Jo Cooper, Lucy Guster, Helen Kwaka

**Absent:** Kedeisha Kartinyeri, Jo Bayly

## 1. WELCOME

### 1.1. Present / Apologies

- Jo Cooper, Project Manager, One Card 2.0 and Helen Kwaka, Manager, Collections & Content attending to talk to item 4.2
- Lucy Guster, Manager, Engagement & Marketing, attendance in place of Jo Bayly to talk to items 4.3 and 4.4
- Kedeisha Kartinyeri (Apology)

### 1.2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair made an Acknowledgement of Country.

### 1.3. Conflict of Interest

Helen noted that she has a social association with one of the nominees for the Public Libraries Committee in item 6.2.

As previously declared, the three Board Members nominated by Local Government have a potential conflict in relation to items 4.1 and 4.2.

### 1.4. Items to Note

- The Minister's decision to not run at the election, noting a new Minister will therefore be appointed following the election.
- Bridget Mather advised that she has resigned from her position on the Coorong Council. Her Board position is linked to Local Government, noting that the Act provides a three-month grace period during which she may continue to serve on the Board, pending any decision by the LGA and the Minister.

## 2. STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

Most items are starred.

### Motion:

Receive and approve any reports and recommendations for unstarred items as presented.

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

### 3. MINUTES

#### 3.1. \*Minutes of Previous Meeting

**Motion:**

The minutes of the Libraries Board meeting held on 2 December 2025 and Out of Session Approval of 19 December 2025 be confirmed.

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

#### 3.2. Action Items

- A Philanthropy and Commercial Working Group meeting is scheduled for next Monday, ahead of the Risk Appetite Workshop. An update will be provided to the Board following the discussion.

It was noted that the Working Group will meet on 9 February 2026.

### 4. STRATEGIC MATTERS (Presentations, Key Strategy Updates)

#### 4.1. \*Collaboration Agreement Update

Megan Berghuis, Director, provided an overview of the report and recommendations to the Collaboration Agreement Update report. The Board discussed the report:

**The Board's decision on Recommendation 1, 2 and 3 of this report was considered in confidence, and legal professional privilege is maintained in respect of those matters.**

#### 4.2. Reform Program - Review of Public Library Funding Model & Allocation

The Chair thanked the staff for their exceptional and hard work. The Director noted that these are preliminary principles, with the aim of testing the Board's strategic view prior to detailed consideration by the One Card 2.0 Steering Committee.

Jo Cooper, Project Manager, One Card 2.0 spoke to the One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Program - Review of Public Library Funding Model & Allocation Report:

- Review delivered as an accelerated work package and as required by the Collaboration Agreement.
- Three key drivers: rising consortium costs affecting financial sustainability; equity issues in the population-based funding model; and the need for stronger governance and accountability.

**The Board's Decision on Recommendation 2 of this report was considered in confidence.**

**Motion:**

It is recommended that the Libraries Board:

1. Endorse the key principles underpinning the review, summarised as follows:
  - Sustainable growth and long-term viability
  - Optimised collection performance and value
  - Equity of access, including rural and regional equity
  - Transparency, governance, and accountability
  - Responsiveness, innovation, and adaptability
  - Collaboration and shared outcomes
  - Community trust and public value

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

4.3. \*South Australian Literary Awards 2026 Update

The Director introduced the paper, including the associated risks and acknowledged the Friends of the State Library for their strong ongoing support.

Lucy Guster, acting Associate Director Strategic Projects, spoke to the South Australian Literary Awards 2026 Update report:

- Outlined the program's evolution since the State Library took over in 2019, including external benchmarking, updated naming and timing for the 2024 awards, and refreshed judging panels.
- The 2026 awards are currently in judging, with updated categories and changes to the Max Fatchen Award (now two age groups plus a prize supporting emerging writers through Writers SA).
- Shortlists and winners to be finalised in June.
- Discussion around judging transparency: most awards publish panels, though some judges prefer anonymity.
- Confirmed the judges follow set criteria, have a convenor, and provide statements for shortlisted works and winners.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board note the update on the delivery of the 2026 South Australian Literary Awards.

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

4.4. \*Future Services Program Update

The Director provided a short update with respect to the Little Library initiative.

Lucy Guster, acting Associate Director Strategic Projects, spoke to the Future Services Program update report:

- Reported that Little Library artwork is being developed by Andrew Joyner and Lawson Dodd, a young First Nations artist.
- Provided an update on the Welcome and Wayfinding Master Plan.
  - Outlined examples of proposed external and internal signage throughout the building.
  - Advised that costings for the next stage are being prepared, with a focus on the Institute, Spence, and the Mortlock eastern entrance to introduce effective welcome signage.
  - Noted that the design approach emphasises flexibility and longevity for future use.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board notes the status of the State Library Future Services Program.

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

Carried.

4.5. \*State Library Services - Highlight Report

Amanda Osborne, Associate Director, spoke to the State Library Services - Highlight report:

- The new storage facility has reached practical completion.
- Some temporary disruption to offsite retrievals has occurred, with communication measures in place to support customers.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board of South Australia notes this report.

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

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 Friday 13 March 2026.

6. PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

6.1. Summary Report of Public Libraries Committee

No report. The next Public Libraries Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 11 March 2026.

6.2. \*Public Libraries Committee Appointment

Hanlie Erasmus, Associate Director, spoke to the Public Libraries Committee Appointment report:

- Noted that Public Libraries South Australia has three members on the Public Libraries Committee, with one position now vacant due to the completion of a member's tenure.
- Advised that the vacancy requires filling to maintain full representation on the Committee.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board:

1. Notes the nominations received from Public Libraries SA.
2. Considers the skills, experience, and alignment of candidates with the Public Libraries Committee Terms of Reference.
3. Endorses the appointment of Melissa Whitrow to the Public Libraries Committee for a three-year term.

Motion moved by Andrew Culley and motion seconded by Amanda Nettelbeck.  
Carried unanimously

7. ONE CARD 2.0 COLLECTIONS REFORM STEERING COMMITTEE

7.1. \*Summary Report of One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Program Highlight Report Period Ending 12 December 2025

Andrew Culley, Chair, One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Steering Committee spoke to the One Card 2.0 Collection Reform Program Highlight Report noting it served as a status update for the Steering Committee, which had not yet met since December:

- Acknowledged that some information in the report is now out of date due to ongoing work.
- Key Committee focus is the significant effort now underway to implement SyrsiDynix.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board note the highlight report for the period ending 12 December 2025, including activities completed and planned.

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

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Acknowledged the complexity of the agenda and expressed appreciation to the team and the Board for their ongoing support.
- Shared insights gained from meetings in Canberra with philanthropy and commercial teams and noted visits to the National Museum and the National Archives with Jo Bayly, Associate Director.

- Highlighted key discussions at the NSLA meeting, including an in-camera session with Directors.
- Noted that recent work and discussions have directly informed the development of the Strategic Plan.
- Outlined outcomes from a visit to Melbourne with Amanda Osborne, Associate Director and Tim Agius, Chair, Aboriginal Reference Group, to view the Yoorrook Justice Commission and Gary Foley Community-Led Archives, which will feature in both the new Strategic Plan and the First Nations Strategy.
- Provided a brief update on progress with the North Terrace Master Plan.
- Presented recent TeamGage results at the end of cycle one (November-January) and noted the value of the monthly real-time staff feedback, confirming that slides will be shared separately.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board note the verbal update provided by the Director.

Motion moved by Helen Hennessy and motion Joost den Hartog.

9. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DECISION

10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. Libraries Board Metro Tour Itinerary - Monday 2 March 2026

10.2. Freedom of Information Status Report as at 15 January 2026

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Libraries Board meeting is scheduled for Monday 2 March 2026 at 2.45pm in Meeting Room 2, State Library, following the Libraries Board Metropolitan Tour.

Meeting closed at 12.01pm.

Chair: .....

Date: .....