



Libraries Board Meeting Minutes

State Library of South Australia

Monday 2 March 2026 2:45pm ACDT

@ Meeting Room 2, State Library, North Terrace

Attendance

Present:

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

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

Absent:

Members: Kedeisha Kartinyeri, Bridget Mather

1. WELCOME

1.1. Present / Apologies

- Bridget Mather (Apology)
- Kedeisha Kartinyeri (Apology)

Motion:

That the Libraries Board grants Kedeisha Kartinyeri leave of absence for a period of 3 months.

Motion moved Helen Hennessy and motion seconded by Amanda Nettelbeck.

Carried.

1.2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair made an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3. Conflict of Interest

Amanda Nettelbeck noted her membership on Adelaide University's Working Group for the First Nations Strategy.

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 Amanda Nettelbeck and motion seconded by Andrew Culley. Carried.

3. MINUTES

3.1. *Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion:

That the minutes of Libraries Board meeting held on 2 February 2026 be confirmed.

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

3.2. Action Items

- Minutes of the Philanthropy Working Group and Risk Management Framework & Investment Policy Workshop to be circulated.

4. STRATEGIC MATTERS (Presentations, Key Strategy Updates)

4.1. *Strategic Plan 2026-2030 Project Brief

Megan Berghuis, Director, spoke to the Strategic Plan 2026-2030 Project Brief, noting that the report was intended to confirm the Board's approval of the proposed scope and approach prior to commencement of the project.

The Board discussed the draft recommendations and governance arrangements. It was noted that the wording of the third recommendation should be amended to clarify that any further amendments would be limited to minor or editorial matters, to be approved at the Director's discretion. It was agreed that consistent wording should also be applied to the third recommendation in Item 4.2.

The Board emphasised the importance of strong community and stakeholder engagement as part of the strategic planning process, noting the opportunity to identify and strengthen partnerships through this work. Members highlighted the value of grounding the strategy in robust evidence, including analysis of available data from the One Card 2.0 system, and reinforced that effective strategies should be evidence-based.

Discussion also focused on the importance of reflecting customer journey and customer experience in the Strategic Plan, while avoiding overly generalised user profiles. Members noted that demographic profiles and service needs vary significantly across communities and change over time, and that the strategy should be sufficiently flexible to respond to these changes.

The Board noted the importance of including mechanisms within the Strategic Plan to enable periodic review and responsiveness to changing operating environments. Members also noted the increasing importance of ensuring library services are responsive to multicultural communities as a key future consideration.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

- Endorses the Project Brief for the development of the Strategic Plan 2026–2030;
- Notes that the Strategic Plan will be developed through a staged, evidence based and consultative process, with draft versions brought back to the Board for consideration prior to final endorsement; and
- Any further amendments limited to minor technical or editorial matters that arise following the endorsement of the plan be incorporated at the discretion of the Director, State Library of South Australia

Motion moved by Joanne Cys and motion seconded by Helen Hennessy. Carried.

4.2. *First Nations Strategy Project Brief

Megan Berghuis, Director, spoke to the First Nations Strategy Project Brief, noting that the project had been led by the Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG). Megan emphasised the importance of placing the voice of the ARG at the centre of the work, with a strong focus on truth-telling and community authority. Megan acknowledged the significant contribution of the ARG and noted their unanimous endorsement of the Project Brief.

The Board discussed the importance of communicating the endorsement and leadership of the ARG to public libraries and councils. It was agreed that this would be reflected in future communications, to clearly signal the State Library's approach and commitment.

The Board discussed resourcing requirements and noted the importance of ensuring the project remained adequately supported. Megan advised that options for State Government support would be explored, and that Adelaide University had indicated willingness to partner on elements of the strategy, which would assist with both resourcing and ethical considerations.

Members emphasised the importance of a clear communications and engagement framework and noted that the Project Brief appropriately positions the strategy as a roadmap rather than a fixed end-point.

Megan advised that State Library Queensland's First Nations strategy would be shared with the Board as a reference document and included in the resources for information.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

- Endorses the Project Brief for the development of the First Nations Strategy
- Notes that the Strategy will be developed through a staged, evidence based and consultative process, which will be led by the Aboriginal Reference Group, with draft versions brought back to the Board for consideration prior to final endorsement; and

- Any further amendments limited to minor technical or editorial matters that arise following the endorsement of the plan be incorporated at the discretion of the Director, State Library of South Australia

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

4.3. *Proposed SCL Funding and Service Delivery Framework for Implementation

Hanlie Erasmus, Associate Director, spoke to the Proposed SCL Funding and Service Delivery Framework for Implementation. Hanlie noted that the framework and recommendations were the outcome of extensive consultation and engagement with councils, public libraries and the Department for Education, and that the process had taken longer than anticipated due to the risk management required.

The Board noted that the consultation process was thorough and data-rich, with strong support expressed for the proposed direction. It was observed that feedback focused less on the policy intent and more on affordability and capacity to implement, particularly for smaller councils. Hanlie advised that the framework seeks to balance sustainability of the program with risk minimisation and clarity of expectations for all parties.

It was noted that the recommendations had been tested with stakeholders prior to submission, which was viewed as a positive approach and provided confidence in the proposed implementation pathway. Discussion also noted the importance of councils contributing appropriately to service delivery where community demand requires enhanced programming and support.

The Board discussed proposed changes to funding mechanisms and noted the intention to improve the effectiveness of funding by supporting staffing capacity and service sustainability. It was acknowledged that the framework represents a significant piece of work and an important step in strengthening governance and long-term viability of the School Community Library program.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

2.1 Endorse a staged transition (2 years) to a revised funding model for implementation from 1 July 2027:

- 1) Align required council contributions to a Baseline Service Specification .
- 2) Increase the required council operating contributions for mandatory baseline services to \$6,000 per SCL and \$10 per capita.
- 3) Raise the catchment population limit for SCL Program membership to 6,000 and cap the Department for Education's allocation for Community Library Assistants at 55 hours.
- 4) Adopt Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) SA2 data to determine the population served.

5) Apply the Adelaide All Ordinaries Consumer Price Index (CPI) for annual adjustment of council operating contributions.

2.2 Approves the implementation of the revised Operational Guidelines and Local Agreements from 1 July 2026, including establishment of Local Executive Groups.

2.3 Considers the transition of the existing annual Community Information Grant (\$34,000) to a Literacy Grant focused on supporting baseline early and digital literacy programming; and considers increasing the Literacy Grant to \$65,000 commencing 2026-27 financial year.

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

5.2. *Libraries Board Financial Performance Summary as at 31 January 2026

Hanlie Erasmus spoke to the Libraries Board Financial Performance Summary as at 31 January 2026, noting the inherent uncertainty in forecasting cost pressures until invoices and contractual costs are received.

The Board was advised that several operational changes have been implemented to help manage costs, including revised arrangements for stock sorting, with libraries now sorting for neighbouring libraries rather than materials being routed through the city. Early indications suggest some efficiencies and savings are emerging from this change, though the full financial impact is still being assessed.

Hanlie noted that while the overall position appears to be tracking as expected at this stage, a degree of caution remains necessary given ongoing uncertainties and the timing of cost pressures across the remainder of the financial year.

Motion:

That the Board notes the Financial Performance Summary for the period ending 31 January 2026, including the accompanying variance explanations.

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

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.

7. ONE CARD 2.0 COLLECTIONS REFORM STEERING COMMITTEE

7.1. *Summary Report of One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Steering Committee

Andrew Culley, Chair, One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Steering Committee, spoke to the Summary Report and provided an update following a recent Steering Committee meeting. The report was noted as a status update, with discussion focusing on progress to date and the phased approach being undertaken by the project team.

Andrew advised that the Steering Committee had engaged in a frank and constructive discussion regarding library funding pressures, including the implications of capped funding. This led to discussion around shared responsibilities across the sector and the role of the Libraries Board in advocacy and system leadership. It was noted that Megan Berghuis had outlined to the Steering Committee the sustained and ongoing efforts being undertaken to secure funding following the meeting.

The Board noted that a range of actions are being progressed to manage cost pressures, alongside work to explore opportunities to increase revenue. It was emphasised that the organisation is actively addressing these challenges and is not sitting idle.

The discussion was noted as a call to action for the Board to continue sharing the advocacy and leadership effort underway and to support clear, consistent messaging about the value and sustainability of the Consortium model.

Motion:

All starred items request the Libraries Board consideration, and non-starred are for noting. Any papers not attached, may be requested.

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

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- An update on the Collaboration Agreement and One Card 2.0 projects, noting that the organisation is currently operating in Caretaker Mode.
- An update on City Library preparations, with planning progressing extremely well. Megan noted a recent combined morning tea with strong attendance from both teams and observed a high level of staff engagement and enthusiasm. It was advised that City Library staff are expected to be located in the building by the end of May.
 - Noted that the City Library may initially open under an interim service model.
 - Advised of an upcoming service interruption due to the temporary closure of the Research Library to enable carpet installation and associated works.

Megan noted that Amanda Osborne and her team are actively exploring alternative arrangements to maintain service access during this period.

- Noted early discussions regarding public access computers, including consideration of future operational responsibilities.
- Provided an update on the Little Library project, noting that work is progressing and that a range of operational considerations are currently being addressed.
- Noted that the State Library is currently buzzing with Adelaide Fringe activity and preparing for Illuminate Adelaide. Megan highlighted positive public engagement and social media coverage and advised that a number of events and performances are being hosted in the Mortlock Library and shared some of the planned activities proposed for Illuminate Adelaide in July.

Motion:

The Libraries Board noted the verbal update provided.

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

Carried.

9. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DECISION

10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. Update Received from Minister Bourke Regarding Tram Stop

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1. Helen Hennessy shared that a LibrariesSA Managers Planning Day is scheduled for 16 March 2026 and invited the Board to attend.

11.1.1. It was noted that Bruce Linn would be overseas and unable to attend, and that Jo Cys would be in Whyalla, also unable to attend.

11.1.2. Hanlie Erasmus to circulate the electronic agenda.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Libraries Board meeting is scheduled for Monday 4 May 2026 at 10am in Meeting Room 2, State Library.

Meeting closed at 4.02pm.

Chair: 

Date: 

