



# Libraries Board Meeting Minutes

State Library of South Australia

5/4/2026 10:00 AMACST

@ Meeting Room 2, State Library, North Terrace

## Attendance

### Present:

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

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

Guests: Cathy Lewis

### 1. WELCOME

#### 1.1. Present / Apologies

- Cathy Lewis, Manager, Finance, Risk and Compliance in attendance

#### 1.2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair made an Acknowledgement of Country.

#### 1.3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were raised.

### 2. STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

The Board agreed to star agenda items 4.1, 6.1.1, and 11.2 for discussion.

#### Motion:

That the Board agrees to take the unstarred agenda items as recommended.

Motion moved by Amanda Nettelbeck and motion seconded by Kedeisha Kartinyeri.  
Carried.

### 3. MINUTES

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

##### Motion:

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

Motion moved by Helen Hennessy and motion seconded by Amanda Nettelbeck.  
Carried.

#### 3.2. Action Items

The Board noted that the outstanding action item has been completed and agreed that it be closed.

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

##### 4.1. \*Cultural Precinct Master Plan Update

Megan Berghuis (Director) and Jo Bayly (Associate Director Strategic Projects) provided an update on the Cultural Precinct Master Plan. The report was presented for noting and outlined progress initially arising from the Parliamentary Inquiry into the South Australian Museum, which was extended to address identified concerns regarding asset condition and fit-for-purpose infrastructure across North Terrace cultural institutions.

The Board noted that work initially envisaged as an asset condition assessment has progressed into a broader North Terrace Master Plan addressing shared issues and exploring shared opportunities across the cultural precinct, specifically relating to State Government owned buildings and surrounds.

It was noted that initial concepts were developed within constrained timeframes and that a further phase of consultation is now underway, with a more iterative and collaborative approach involving institutional leadership and boards.

The Board noted the importance of alignment with the Libraries Board's approved Future Service Vision, including previously identified but unfunded priorities. Asset condition, operational considerations, and approaches to shared use were noted as relevant factors.

Governance was identified as a key risk consideration, particularly in relation to land tenure, asset ownership, and any proposed shared or co-located uses. The importance of considering connections beyond State Government sites was also noted, including interfaces with neighbouring precincts such as Adelaide University and the Riverbank, and how visitors navigate, access, and experience the broader North Terrace precinct.

##### **Motion:**

That the Libraries Board notes the update on the North Terrace Cultural Precinct Master Plan.

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

##### 4.2. \*Libraries Board Income Generation Strategy

Megan Berghuis (Director) and Jo Bayly (Associate Director Strategic Projects) presented the Libraries Board Income Generation Strategy. The Board noted that the Strategy was developed following the work of the Philanthropy and Income Generation Working Group, convened after the philanthropy review undertaken by Elizabeth Davis.

It was noted that the Working Group recommended endorsement of a Business Development Manager role to provide expertise to inform a coordinated approach to income generation, including development of a prospectus and progression of funding opportunities.

The Board noted that the proposed role represents a modest initial investment intended to support a more strategic and sustainable approach to income generation. The importance of establishing a clear roadmap and dedicated capability to progress this work was noted, with expectations to be managed realistically.

The Board noted that visitation had substantially recovered following COVID disruption, creating increased opportunity to generate commercial income. It was acknowledged that developing commercial income would enable longer-term investment in other income streams.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board:

- Support a three-channel approach to income generation including commercial activity, grants and sponsorships, and philanthropy.
- Approve the establishment of a dedicated management level role with responsibility across all three channels.
- Note that philanthropy will be progressed on a staged basis, with initial focus on the development of a funding prospectus and a light touch presence.

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

4.3. \*Submission to the Development of a New National Cultural Policy

Megan Berghuis (Director) presented a draft submission to the development of a new National Cultural Policy. The Board noted that the opportunity to provide a submission had arisen and that the submission was prepared to reflect relevant strategies and priorities.

The Board noted that the submission addresses key policy themes, including cultural infrastructure, access and inclusion, literacy, and request to strength the statement about the role of libraries as collecting and storytelling institutions.

The Board noted that the submission strengthens the reference to opportunities for support and action including Mortlock Chamber and the broader importance of libraries as civic institutions supporting participation and trust.

The Board noted that the submission responds to a range of contemporary policy considerations, including emerging technologies and AI, the predominance of a western lens within AI systems, equity implications, and climate-related risks relevant to major cultural infrastructure.

The Director undertook to revise the submission to reflect Board feedback and circulate the final version out of session.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board:

- 1) Endorse the submission informing the development of the next National Cultural Policy; and
- 2) Authorise the Director, State Library of South Australia, to finalise and lodge the submission on behalf of the Libraries Board, incorporating any feedback from Board members.

Motion moved by Amanda Nettelbeck and motion seconded by Kedeisha Kartinyeri. Carried.

#### 4.4. \*Mortlock Bequest 2026-27

Jo Bayly (Associate Director Strategic Projects) presented the Mortlock Bequest 2026-27 report, providing the Board with an overview of previously approved projects, progress against approved expenditure, current investment values, and requests for the 2026–27 financial year.

The Board noted that the majority of approved projects are now in delivery phase following extended lead times and are expected to conclude by the end of the calendar year. The Board noted the continued focus on investment in welcome and wayfinding, particularly in anticipation of increased visitation, and the need for a modest refresh of the Research Library with the addition of the City Library in July.

It was noted that the report will be revisited early in the new financial year once final accounts are available.

#### **Motion:**

That the Libraries Board:

- 1) Notes the status of approved Mortlock Bequest funded activities;
- 2) Approves \$600,000 of new funding from the Mortlock Bequest for initiatives that align with the Board’s strategic priorities for 2026-27; and
- 3) Approves \$1.3 million of new funding from the Mortlock Bequest to meet the State Library recurrent budget shortfall in 2026-27.
- 4) Review in the 2026-27 Financial Year.

Motion moved by Bridget Mather and motion seconded by Kedeisha Kartinyeri.  
Carried.

### 5. FINANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

#### 5.1. \*Summary Report of Finance and Risk Committee Meeting

Bridget Mather, Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee, presented the Summary Report of the recent Committee meeting. The Board noted that the majority of agenda items had previously been considered by the Board, enabling the Committee to finalise and close those matters.

The Chair acknowledged and thanked Committee members for their significant and diligent work.

#### **Motion:**

That the Finance and Risk Committee recommends that the Libraries Board:

- Approve the Financial Management Compliance Program for 2025-26.
- Note the Library’s Procurement Contract Register, Procurement Departures, and Supplier Complaints reports.
- Endorse the reviewed Libraries Board Risk Appetite Statements (May 2026) and replace any previous versions.
- Authorise staff to finalise all associated administrative requirements including the effective date, subject to any amendments requested by the Libraries Board.

- Approve the reviewed Libraries Board Investment Policy (May 2026) and replace any previous versions.
- Authorise staff to finalise all associated administrative requirements including the effective date, subject to any amendments requested by the Libraries Board.
- Endorse the reviewed Bequest and Donated Funds Policy (April 2026)
- Authorise staff to finalise all associated administrative requirements, subject to any amendments requested by the Libraries Board.

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

5.2. Libraries Board Financial Performance Summary as at 31 March 2026

**Motion:**

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

5.3. \*Draft Libraries Board Budget Strategy 2026-2027

Hanlie Erasmus (Associate Director Public Library and Corporate Services) presented the draft Libraries Board Budget Strategy 2026-27.

The Board noted that a number of budget elements remain subject to uncertainty and that further consideration of the financial modelling will occur through an out-of-session meeting of the Finance and Risk Committee. The Board noted that budget assumptions and options will be considered with the relevant stakeholders.

The Board supported Option 1. It was noted that cost pressures will need to be articulated and that stakeholder feedback will inform development of the final Budget Strategy. The importance of sequencing consultation to support informed decision-making was noted.

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board:

- 1) Notes the constrained and structurally challenging funding environment facing both the State Library and One Card Consortium services, including ongoing cost pressures that cannot be fully absorbed through efficiencies alone
- 2) Endorses the draft Budget Strategy 2026-27 for the State Library and One Card Consortium Services, noting that the strategy is subject to confirmation of the State Budget in June 2026
- 3) Considers the four budget strategy options presented for managing unavoidable One Card Consortium cost pressures in 2026-27 and supported option 1 as the preferred option to inform final budget development and stakeholder communication.

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

## 6. PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

### 6.1. \*Summary Report of Public Libraries Committee

Helen Hennessy, Chair of the Public Libraries Committee, presented the Summary Report of the Public Libraries Committee meeting. The Board noted that the meeting covered a broad range of operational and strategic matters and that reports and updates were received.

The Board noted updates on digital content and service activity, including continued engagement with Summer Read as a statewide literacy initiative and increasing use of data and analytics to support council and library management decision-making.

The Board noted updates on the use of LinkedIn Learning across councils, with programs tailored to local needs. It was noted that technology training is well utilised by the public and that business and management-focused training, including strategic and business planning, is accessed by public library managers.

The Board noted an update on the investigation into young adult collections undertaken in response to a complaint. The Board noted that school libraries apply their own risk assessment frameworks and that materials may be accessed through the public library network via One Card.

The Board noted that the review of the Public Libraries Committee Terms of Reference was endorsed.

#### **Motion:**

That the Libraries Board note the summary report of the Wednesday 8 April 2026 Committee meeting and approves the resolutions recommended by the Public Libraries Committee.

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

### 6.2. \*Peterborough Community Library

Hanlie Erasmus (Associate Director Public Library and Corporate Services) provided a verbal update. Board noted update.

#### **Motion:**

The Board notes the verbal update provided.

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

### 6.3. Letter from LGA regarding School Community Library Funding Review

## 7. ONE CARD 2.0 COLLECTIONS REFORM STEERING COMMITTEE

No report. The next One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Steering Committee meeting is TBC.

## 8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Construction works for the City Library and the Little Library are underway.
- Negotiations for the Visitor Experience Centre is progressing with tenders for construction currently being prepared.
- Development of the Strategic Plan is underway, with the Board to be consulted during Stage One. A Board workshop is anticipated later in June. Further information will be provided once proposals are received.
- An agreement has been reached with the Friends of the State Library regarding the Deane Miller Fellowship. The Fellowship will be offered as a creative fellowship, inviting artists to engage with and be inspired by the State Library's collections, and to develop a new artistic work in response. Further information will be published on the SLSA website shortly
- The Director attended the National and State Libraries Australasia meeting in March in New Zealand, including the opening of the joint National Library and National Archives facility and the finalisation of the NSLA Strategic Plan.
- Victoria McKirdy has been announced as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association, with a letter to be sent from the Chair to Victoria congratulating her on her appointment.

**Motion:**

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

Motion moved by Bridget Mather and motion seconded by Kedeisha Kartinyeri. Carried.

9. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DECISION

10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. Libraries Board Regional Tour

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1. Libraries Board Out of Session Workshop

11.2. \*Finance and Risk Committee Membership

**Motion:**

That the Libraries Board approves the Chair, Bruce Linn, to replace Kedeisha Kartinyeri on Finance and Risk Committee effective immediately.

Motion moved by Joost den Hartog and motion seconded by Kedeisha Kartinyeri. Carried.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Libraries Board meeting is scheduled for Monday 1 June 2026 at 10am in Meeting Room 2, State Library.

Closed meeting at 11.58am.

Chair:  .....

Date: 1/6/2026 .....