Libraries Board Meeting Minutes

State Library of South Australia
6 July 2026 10am ACST
@ Meeting Room 2, State Library, North Terrace

Attendance

Present:
Members: Bruce Linn (Chair), Andrew Culley, Joanne Cys, Joost den Hartog (remote), Kedeisha Kartinyeri, Amanda Nettelbeck
In Attendance: Jo Bayly, Hanlie Erasmus, Amanda Osborne, Cassidy Jenkins

Absent:
Helen Hennessy, Bridget Mather, Megan Berghuis

1. WELCOME

1.1. Present / Apologies

- Helen Hennessy (Apology)
- Bridget Mather (Apology)
- Megan Berghuis (Apology)

1.2. Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge this land that we meet on today is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia/Australia.

1.3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

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

Motion moved by Joanne Cys 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 1 June 2026 be confirmed.

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

3.2. Action Items

The Board noted that there were no outstanding Action Items.

4. STRATEGIC MATTERS (Presentations, Key Strategy Updates)

4.1. Machinery of Government Changes 1 July 2026

The Chair provided a verbal update on the Machinery of Government changes that took effect on 1 July 2026. The Chair welcomed the changes and noted that further information would become available as implementation progresses. The Chair also reported on a recent meeting with Caroline Mealor, Chief Executive of the Attorney-General's Department

The Chair further outlined strategic discussions regarding the Board's 2026-27 Budget position, including the approach to managing ongoing funding pressures and the importance of pursuing sustainable long-term funding solutions.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board notes the verbal update provided by the Chair.

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

5. FINANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

5.1. *Summary Report of Finance and Risk Committee Meeting - 12 June 2026

The Chair presented the report on behalf of the Finance and Risk Committee Chair.

The Board noted the Committee's consideration of a range of financial, risk and governance matters, including the Trust Funds Investment Portfolio Review, Public Library Funding Distribution Methodology Review, proposed 2026-27 Fees and Charges, Financial Performance Summary, Financial Authorisations, Legislative Compliance Register, proposed Libraries Board Governance Model, Workplace Health and Safety matters, and compliance with Treasurer's Instruction 11 relating to payment of invoices and claims.

The Board also noted the Committee's recommendation regarding Finance and Risk Committee membership and endorsed the reappointment of David Braham, Heather Martens and Joanne Cys for the upcoming term. Members acknowledged the value of retaining Committee expertise and continuity during a period of significant financial and strategic activity.

In considering the proposed Fees and Charges Schedule, Board members requested additional information regarding service demand, benchmarking and alignment with Adelaide City Libraries fee structures. It was agreed that the matter be referred back to the Finance and Risk Committee for further review and consideration with more information included.

Motion:

Notes the Summary Report of the Finance and Risk Committee meeting held on 12 June 2026.

Approves the recommendations of the Committee as outlined in the report, excluding Item 5.3 - State Library Proposed Fees and Charges 2026-27.
Refers Item 5.3 back to the Finance and Risk Committee for further review and additional information.

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

5.2. *Libraries Board Draft 2026-27 Budget

The Board considered the draft 2026-27 Budget and noted the updated financial position for both the State Library and Public Library Services. Members discussed the budget approach, including the Board’s previously endorsed intention to reinvest in collections and the implications of ongoing cost pressures across library services. The Board supported the proposed strategy.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

1) Notes the updated State Budget advice and the resulting operating deficits for both the State Library and Public Library Services (PLS).
2) Confirms that the budget strategy endorsed in May 2026 for the State Library remains valid as the basis for managing a structurally constrained funding environment.
3) Approves the proposed PLS budget approach, including its financial impacts and implications for the Board’s strategic positioning.
4) Determines the preferred approach to the presentation of the 2026-27 budget position.
5) Approves the proposed interim communication to Councils to advise of the Board’s 2026-27 budget position and the impact on council subsidies.

Motion moved by Joanne Cys and motion seconded by Kedeisha Kartinyeri. Carried.

5.3. *State Library Proposed Fees and Charges 2026-27

The Board discussed the proposed Fees and Charges Schedule and agreed that additional information was required to support consideration of the proposal, including further analysis and supporting metrics. Members agreed that the matter should be referred back to the Finance and Risk Committee in the first instance for further review and recommendation.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board defer consideration of the proposed Fees and Charges Schedule for 2026-27 and refer the matter to the Finance and Risk Committee for further review, including the provision of additional information and supporting metrics to inform future consideration by the Board.

Motion moved and motion seconded. Carried.

5.4. *Libraries Board Investment Proposal

The Board considered the forecast cash flow position and associated liquidity requirements, including the funding requirements of planned capital projects and ongoing operational commitments. Members noted the proposed approach to maintaining appropriate operational reserves while maximising investment returns.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

1) Note the forecast cash flow position and associated liquidity requirements
2) Endorse a minimum operational cash balance of $1 million; and
3) Endorse a preferred drawdown approach to managing liquidity over 2026-27

Motion moved and motion seconded. Carried.

5.5. Libraries Board Financial Performance Summary as at 31 May 2026

Item unstarred and taken as recommend.

Motion:

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

Motion moved and motion seconded. Carried.

6. PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

6.1. Summary Report of Public Libraries Committee

No report. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 22 June 2026.

6.2. *Delegation to Execute School Community Library (SCL) Agreements

Hanlie Erasmus, Associate Director, spoke to the report. The Board considered proposed delegation arrangements for School Community Library Agreements and associated documentation. Members noted that the delegation would support the efficient administration of agreements and amendments while maintaining appropriate governance oversight and ensuring matters outside the approved policy and funding framework continue to be referred to the Board.

Motion:

It is recommended that the Libraries Board:

1) Approves the execution of a formal Instrument of Delegation under the Board’s common seal, authorising the Associate Director, Public Library and Corporate Services (or equivalent position) to execute School Community Library Agreements and associated documents on behalf of the Board.
2) Approves that this delegation applies to both new SCL Agreements and any variations, amendments or updates to local SCL schedules or documents within the Board-endorsed framework.
3) Delegation is limited to agreements within the SCL policy framework and Board-approved funding outcomes. Any agreement that establishes new policies, commits funds beyond approved budgets, or significantly deviates from the SCL framework must be reviewed and approved by the Board.
4) Notes that delegating this authority will reduce administrative burden and enable timely execution of multiple SCL Agreements, thereby facilitating efficient implementation of the Board’s February 2026 SCL Funding Review decisions without compromising governance oversight.

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

6.3. Indigenous Literacy Foundation - Community Publishing Project Update

The Board noted the successful outcomes of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation Community Publishing Project, including the publication of a children's book produced through the initiative. Members acknowledged the project’s contribution to literacy outcomes, cultural connection and community storytelling, and noted the broader reach of the publication through national distribution.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

- Note the outcomes of the ILF Community Publishing Project in South Australia.
- Recognise the contribution this project makes to advancing literacy outcomes and culturally relevant content across the LibrariesSA network.
- Acknowledge the value of community-led publishing initiatives in supporting literacy, cultural connection, and local content creation.

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

7. ONE CARD 2.0 COLLECTIONS REFORM STEERING COMMITTEE

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

No report. Next meeting scheduled for Monday 17 August 2026.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jo Bayly, Acting Director, provided a verbal update on a range of organisational priorities and projects.

The Board noted progress on the Strategic Plan development process, including stakeholder engagement activities being facilitated by Democracy Co. Members were thanked for their participation in recent engagement sessions and noted positive feedback from workshops. The engagement process will inform development of a discussion guide for public consultation and the subsequent draft Strategic Plan.

The Board also received updates regarding the Literary Awards program, the successful opening of the interim Research Library and City Library, progress on the Little Library project, the Visitor Experience Centre, the North Terrace Cultural Precinct Masterplan and the development of a collaborative Digital Innovation Fund submission with partner Cultural Institutions. Members noted strong community interest in the Research Library, City Library and Little Library projects and ongoing progress across key strategic infrastructure initiatives.

Hanlie Erasmus, Associate Director, Public Library and Corporate Services, provided an additional update regarding digital literacy initiatives. The Board noted that Skills SA had committed funding to support expanded digital literacy programs across regional South Australia, including additional program delivery capacity and support for regional and School Community Libraries.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board notes the verbal update provided by Acting Director, Jo Bayly.

Motion moved by Andrew Culley and motion seconded by Kedeisha Kartinyeri. Carried.

9. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DECISION

10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NOTING

The Chair advised that he would be overseas at the time of the August 2026 Libraries Board meeting and thanked Joanne Cys for agreeing to Chair the meeting in his absence. The Board noted the arrangement.

The Chair also acknowledged the commencement of NAIDOC Week and encouraged recognition of the celebrations taking place across the community.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1. Draft Itinerary - Regional Libraries Board Tour - 9 November 2026

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Libraries Board meeting is scheduled for Monday 3 August 2026 at 10am in Meeting Room 2, State Library.

Meeting closed at 11.36am.

Chair: ………………………………………………

Date: ………………………………………………