

Libraries Board Meeting Minutes

State Library of South Australia

7 September 2026 10am ACST

@ Meeting Room 2, State Library, North Terrace

Attendance

Present:

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

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

Guests: Jo Cooper

1. WELCOME

1.1. Present / Apologies

There were no apologies.

Joanne Cys acted as Chair while Bruce Linn was travelling.

Amanda Nettelbeck left the meeting at 11am.

1.2. Acknowledgement of Country

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

2. STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

The Board agreed to take the unstarred agenda items as recommended. Items 5.2 and 10.1 remained unstarred.

Motion:

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

Motion moved by Amanda Nettelbeck and motion seconded by Bridget Mather.
Carried.

3. MINUTES

3.1. *Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion:

That the Minutes of Libraries Board meeting held on 3 August 2026 be confirmed.

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

3.2. Action Items

The Board noted there were no outstanding action items.

4. STRATEGIC MATTERS (Presentations, Key Strategy Updates)

4.1. *Update on Governance and Funding Review Projects

Hanlie Erasmus, Associate Director, and Jo Cooper, Project Manager, One Card 2.0, spoke to the report and provided an update on the Governance Review and Funding Distribution Model Review projects.

The Board noted the progress of both projects, including feedback received from the Finance and Risk Committee and the One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Steering Committee. Discussion focused on the desired governance model, stakeholder engagement approach, implementation timeframes and the relationship between the projects and the development of the new Strategic Plan.

The Board considered opportunities to streamline governance arrangements whilst still ensuring stakeholder perspectives are represented throughout the structure. Members emphasised the importance of clear terms of reference, decision-making pathways, stakeholder communication and ongoing opportunities for sector participation.

The Board also considered the completion of Phase 1 of the Funding Distribution Model Review, which included the development of a funding model architecture, the principles underpinning the proposed methodology, transitional arrangements and the timing of implementation. Members discussed the importance of balancing equity, sustainability and stakeholder engagement in the development of a future funding model.

The Board agreed that the Strategic Plan provides the overarching framework for future governance and funding discussions and noted the importance of a clear implementation roadmap and engagement strategy.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board:

- 1) That the Board note the Governance Review update and support further development of the governance model, associated Terms of Reference, stakeholder engagement approach, risk assessment and transition arrangements, with a refined version be returned to the board for further consideration.

- 2) That the Board note the Funding Distribution Methodology Review update, including the consultant's draft findings and scenario modelling, and support continued development of the methodology, implementation options and stakeholder engagement approach, with further advice to be returned to the Board for consideration.
- 3) The Board noted that a revised roadmap would be developed which prioritises the Strategic Plan and incorporates a clear stakeholder engagement approach.

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

4.2. *Libraries Board of South Australia - Annual Report 2025-26

Megan Berghuis, Director, advised that the Annual Report remained in draft format and that further information and refinements would be incorporated before submission.

The Board noted feedback provided by Amanda Nettelbeck regarding the inclusion of the State Library's history-related activities. Members were invited to provide any further amendments or corrections.

Bruce Linn confirmed that he was satisfied with the draft report and the Chair's covering letter.

Motion:

That the Board:

- Approves the draft Libraries Board of South Australia Annual Report 2025-2026 at attachment 1 for submission to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for review; and
- Authorises the Director, State Library of South Australia, to finalise and submit the Annual Report 2025-26, including the audited financial statements, subject to:
 - Any amendments requested by the Board or the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and
 - Any amendments not materially altering the substance of the report.

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

4.3. *Collection Deaccession and Disposal Policy

Amanda Osborne, Associate Director, presented the revised Collection Deaccessioning and Disposal Policy.

The Board noted that the policy had been substantially reviewed, with the previous policy having last received significant attention in 2012. The revised policy:

- Incorporates consideration of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property principles;
- Reflects consultation with the Aboriginal Reference Group;
- Clarifies the delegations and authorisations applying to deaccession and disposal decisions;
- Is consistent with the approaches adopted by other National and State Libraries Australasia libraries; and
- Provides clearer guidance regarding the categories of material that may or may not be considered for disposal.

The Board was advised that the revised policy did not expose any category of collection material to a greater level of risk than under the existing policy.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board of South Australia:

- Endorses the Collection Deaccessioning and Disposal Policy; and
- Revokes the existing Deaccessioning and Disposal Policy upon commencement of the new policy.

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

5. FINANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

5.1. *Summary Report of Finance and Risk Committee Meeting - 7 August 2026

Bridget Mather, Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee, presented the Summary Report.

The Board noted that the Governance Review, Funding Distribution Model and Stakeholder Engagement had been discussed extensively under Item 4.1.

The Board also noted:

- Continued improvement in the State Library's cyber security maturity, while acknowledging that cyber security remained an ongoing area of focus;
- The quality and clarity of the cyber security presentation provided to the Committee;
- The unaudited financial statements for 2025-26, with no unexpected matters identified; and
- The Treasurer's Instruction 11 update.

Motion:

That the Board endorse the report and recommendations of the Finance and Risk Committee, including the Committee's consideration of the Governance Review Project, Funding Distribution Methodology Review and stakeholder approach, cyber security update and draft financial statements.

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

Carried.

5.2. Chair Approval of One-Off Delegation Increase for Invoice Approval

This item was unstarred and taken as recommended under Item 2.

6. PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

6.1. Summary Report of Public Libraries Committee

No report. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 18 November 2026.

6.2. *Annual Customer Survey Topline Report

Hanlie Erasmus, Associate Director, presented the Annual Customer Survey Topline Report.

The Board noted that the report provided the annual high-level overview of public library customer research. The findings indicated:

- Continued strong use of physical and digital collections;
- High levels of customer satisfaction, trust, community value and advocacy for library services;
- Some differences between metropolitan, regional and school community library service settings;
- The benefit of individual libraries receiving service-specific customer feedback to inform local improvements; and
- The increasing importance of libraries as community and social infrastructure.

The Board was advised that the general survey uses randomly selected customers and may not adequately capture the experiences of participants in digital literacy programs. Public Library Services would therefore seek to combine feedback from digital literacy program participants with the broader customer research to better understand the impact of the Being Digital Program.

The Board also noted variations in how regional customers use library services and the relevance of these differences to future service planning and funding considerations.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board notes:

1. The findings of the Customer Research Topline Report.
2. The strong and stable results for customer experience, trust, satisfaction, visitation and advocacy.
3. Opportunities identified in relation to digital confidence, information literacy and variations in service use across metropolitan, regional and School Community Library settings.

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

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 of the One Card 2.0 Collections Reform Steering Committee, presented the summary report of the meeting held on 17 August 2026.

The Board noted that governance matters raised by the Committee had been considered under Item 4.1.

The Board also noted:

- A presentation concerning the procurement process for delivery and sortation services;
- The Committee's strong engagement with opportunities to use technology and innovation to manage costs;
- Discussion concerning policy settings intended to reduce transit volumes and associated costs;
- The project highlight report;
- The ongoing project management arrangements for implementation of the Library Management System at the State Library; and
- The significant work undertaken by the project team.

Motion:

That the Libraries Board note the summary report of the 17 August 2026 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.

8. *DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Megan Berghuis, Director, provided a verbal update.

The Board noted:

- The successful opening of the Little Library and the strong public response and uptake following its opening;
- Recent discussions with the Attorney-General's Department concerning financial authorisation for the physical library materials procurement;
- Continued work with the Attorney-General's Department to build understanding of the Board's financial position, reform program and decision-making;
- Progress on the Strategic Plan, including work led by Jo Bayly with Democracy Co to consolidate the first-stage engagement results and finalise the Discussion Paper and public survey;
- The planned launch of the Strategic Plan consultation campaign on 21 September 2026;
- A public library online strategy summit scheduled for 28 September 2026;
- A State Library strategy summit scheduled for 12 October 2026, with Board members to be invited to participate;
- Release of the South Australian Literary Awards shortlist and receipt of approximately 768 award entries;
- A recent event recognising and thanking the independent award judges;
- Upcoming meetings with the Minister for Arts and the Local Government Association;
- The importance of those meetings in progressing discussions concerning strategic, governance and funding matters; and

- The planned release of the advertisement for the commercial and business development role.

The Director acknowledged the work of the Executive and staff in progressing the significant reform and strategic agenda.

Motion:

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

Motion moved by Helen Hennessy and motion seconded by Bruce Linn. Carried.

9. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DECISION

There were no additional items for decision.

10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. Response From Minister Hood

This item was unstarred and taken as recommended under Item 2

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Acting Chair acknowledged the successful opening of the Little Library on 21 August 2026 and formally thanked the Director, Associate Directors, Executive and staff involved in the project and opening event. The Board noted the strong public response to the Little Library and congratulated staff on the successful delivery of the project.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Libraries Board meeting is scheduled for Friday 25 September 2026 at 10am to review the Audited Financial Statements 2025-26.

Meeting closed at 12.06pm.

Chair:

Date: