



Public Libraries Consultative Committee
Unconfirmed - Minutes of the 84th meeting

Date and time	Monday 24 July 2017, 11.00am-1.00pm
Location	Garling Room, Level 1 Macquarie Building
Chair	Jan Richards AM (Library Council of NSW)
Members in Attendance	Adele Casey (NSWPLA) Cr Dallas Tout (NSWPLA) Cr Les Lambert (NSWPLA) Cr Lesley Furneaux-Cook (LGNSW) Cr Romola Hollywood (NSWPLA) Jan Richards AM (Library Council of NSW) Lucy Milne (State Library) Philip Edney (NSWPLA) Robert Knight (NSWPLA) Sally Watterson (LGNSW representing Margaret Kay) The Hon. George Souris AM (Library Council of NSW)
State Library Staff in Attendance	Cameron Morley, A/Executive Director PLE Philippa Scarf, A/Manager PLS
Apologies	Margaret Kay (LGNSW) Michael Caulfield (Library Council of NSW)
Minutes	Susan Smith

Minutes

Item 1: Preliminary Matters

1.1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.00am and conducted an Acknowledgement of Country before she welcomed attendees. The Chair welcomed Ms Sally Watterson (LGNSW) standing in for Ms Margaret Kay, and new member Cr Lesley Furneaux-Cook to the meeting. Introductions of all members were made. Apologies were moved by Mr Robert Knight for Margaret Kay (LGNSW) and Mr Michael Caulfield.

1.2 Notification of other business

Nil notified.



Item 2: Minutes, Business arising and action register

2.1 Minutes of the 83rd meeting

- Cr Les Lambert moved that the Minutes of the 83rd meeting held on 13 March 2017 be confirmed and accepted as a true record. The Chair thanked the committee and recorded approval of the minutes as read.

2.2 Business Arising

- Nil advised.

Item 3: Papers for DISCUSSION & NOTING

3.1 Public Library Funding model 2017-18

- Ms Philippa Scarf spoke to her paper on the 2017-18 funding model.
- Ms Scarf advised that the availability of the ABS revised population figures had enabled finalisation of the 2017-18 funding model, which was based on the same allocation method as 2016-17.
- It was agreed that the spreadsheet distributed at the meeting (Appendix 1) would be amended to include notes on the red highlighted items at the right of the spreadsheet. These notes are to explain that these councils have not experienced a decrease in core funding, rather they represent decreases in population in those areas; or, areas where last year's figure was higher due to one-off payments received for amalgamation assistance. These notes to be added to the spreadsheet before it is provided to Library Council and the Minister for approval.
- It was noted that the spreadsheet used council names current as at 30 March and these should be updated on the spreadsheet to reflect the council names as at the more current date.
- Hon George Souris AM enquired about a reduction in funding from 2016-17 for Snowy-Monaro and Yass. It was explained that Yass had withdrawn from the Southern Tablelands Regional Cooperative as of 30 June and was not eligible for a collaboration incentive payment in 2017/18, and Snowy Monaro had received an additional one-off payment for amalgamation.
- Cr Lesley Furneaux-Cook noted that the local council elections on 9 September 2017 may result in some further amalgamations. She asked about how further amalgamations would be handled. Mr Morley responded that the same process would be applied as in previous amalgamations where the amalgamated council would receive a one-off payment to assist with the library merger.
- Cr Les Lambert moved that the Public Libraries Consultative Committee ENDORSE the public library funding model for 2017-18 and RECOMMEND its consideration by Library Council. This motion was passed.

3.2 Public Library Funding model 2018-19 and beyond

- The Chair introduced the discussion on the public library funding model for future years beyond 2017-18, then Ms Philippa Scarf spoke to her paper on this and there was a robust discussion of ideas.
- She advised that she had looked at the current model and pressure points together with the principles discussed at the PLCC March 2017 meeting to develop three models based at increments of \$30 million, \$35million, and \$40million. The models used ABS population projections. At the March 2017 meeting the Committee agreed on the following funding principles
 - a per capita solution is not the preferred option
 - maintain a base safety net amount
 - the Subsidy Adjustment is the key component to ensure equitable increases to councils
 - increase the funding of Strategic Network Projects to improve network capability (e.g. research projects, learning and development), support network activities and build on success of state-

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wide services including multicultural services, and support innovation projects to fund unmet needs including digital inclusion, services and collections.

- NSW.net funding increased to provide councils with subsidised service upgrades, state-wide eresources and econtent management solutions
- retain a grants program with a focus on infrastructure
- Ms Scarf advised that the \$30 million model represented continuing with the status quo. Mr Cameron Morley noted that to avoid going back to the \$23.5 million base recurrent payment, we would need to mount a further funding bid based on the articulation of sound arguments about what could be achieved with the additional funding. Today's discussion will inform the bid's construction.
- Mr Morley referred to the list of public library funding needs, which are growing annually, developed as part of the assessment and compliance visits undertaken by the State Library team. He advised that he is looking at an incremental approach to the base bid. He noted that previous bids to double the funding had been unsuccessful, and that the future bid needed to mount strategic arguments as a strong rationale for any increases.
- The Chair pointed out that for example NSW.net has not received a funding increase since 2003-04 inception so an increase in this area is very defensible on equity of access and escalation grounds.
- Cr Lesley Furneaux-Cook raised the issues of the huge population increases along rail links, for example in the Canterbury-Bankstown area, being part of the story. Mr Morley reinforced Cumberland as another good example to include.
- Mr Robert Knight pointed to the attrition in public library staffing and library opening hours over the previous four years due to of cost cutting measures and reduced 'real value' funding as highlighting the need for more funding for a grants program. He emphasised that governmental cost cutting had created a new paradigm for the public library network as a place to obtain everything from RTA licence information, Telstra access, employment application assistance for online applications, and general representation of government agencies - especially in regional areas. Mr Knight recommended that the bid should be more ambitious as public libraries are adapting and stretching themselves to fulfil all these community needs. He noted that the ALP policy from the last election outlined a \$60m library funding platform.
- Cr Les Lambert proposed that the Committee include libraries' work with illiterate Australian adults (including migrants) and seniors to develop both English and computer literacy.
- Ms Adele Casey mentioned the impact of changes to TAFE functions which had resulted in basic computer lessons being delivered in many libraries.
- Ms Milne agreed that the impact of libraries to create a sense of social cohesion through personal and economic development was a major social impact and consideration.
- Cr Romola Hollywood reinforced that we need to highlight the overall increase in usage of libraries is not simply due to a population increase, the libraries are doing increased community work. The intersection of infrastructure and innovation has direct benefit for the economy.
- Cr Dallas Tout requested that the bid rationale mention the number of justifiable bids rejected for public library grants over the past five years because of an inadequate pool of money to fund them. He recommended that we develop a bid rationale for \$50-60 million.
- Mr Morley responded that the Library's CFO, Mr Phil Barter, was in contact with Treasury to seek advice on the mechanism for the bid.
- The Chair observed that there is additionally a definite need for money for innovation to address the lack of funds for innovative programs over the past four-year program. She stressed how innovation allowed collaboration across the public library network.
- Cr Lesley Furneaux-Cook recommended the inclusion of data on the level of public library funding and innovation projects in other states as many were higher than NSW. NSW should position itself as a leader

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in this area. The Chair responded to advise that Northern Territory Library used the public library national standards as the basis for its November 2016 submission.

- Mr Knight suggested acknowledging the government's foresight in the *Library Act 1939* and pointing out that their legacy will be diminished by shrinking public library funding.
- Hon George Souris AM recommended that we create a new narrative that addressed current inequities and the need to make a one-off, equity correction so that the public library network can deliver services to the people of NSW that are not delivered currently or are emerging services. It needs to be positive about what the extra money will help achieve.
- Mr Morley advised that the likely Treasury timeline may mean that the models would be circulated out-of-session prior to the scheduled September PLCC meeting. The proposal will then go to Library Council for approval.
- The Chair thanked the Committee for a robust discussion. Mr Dallas Tout then moved that the public library funding model principles be ENDORSED and RECOMMENDED that the proposed models be prepared. This motion was accepted.

3.3 ALA Libraries Transform Lives® campaign

- The Chair briefed the Committee about the Libraries Transform Lives® campaign which originates from the American Library Association (ALA), which is the largest in the world and well-resourced for lobbying. Ms Richards advised that Ms Julie Todaro, the ALA President, had been secured as a keynote speaker for SWITCH 2017. Their campaign is simple and ideal for adaptation. It is of great interest as a national campaign – already NSW has been approached by other states to share it; the ALA is happy licence the campaign. ALIA is also interested in the campaign.
- Ms Richards AM pointed to previous successes in taking the @ *Your Library* campaign nationally.
- The Chair recommended some of the ALA PowerPoint presentation to be used as inspiration for the public library funding bid.
- Ms Milne sought approval from the Chair to raise this at the forthcoming NSLA meeting This was agreed as it is likely that ALIA will be supportive in this 'national year of reading'.
- Mr Souris AM asked about the value of library networks and their intangible contributions. It was noted that the prior work commissioned by the State Library in 2008 '*Enriching Communities*' and the 2012 Deloitte public library stories and statistics, support similar findings.
- The Committee NOTED the Libraries Transform Lives® campaign.

3.4 Bulk Loans model update

- Mr Morley provided a verbal background to the bulk loans review and updated the Committee on recent events.
- On the 19 June 2017, a round-table was held at the State Library and the feedback garnered at that was discussed at the Library Council meeting later that day. Subsequently, it was agreed that a distributed model would be pursued for larger library users, and a similar version of the old service would be operated for smaller, isolated libraries. This would still enable the Library to operate within its reduced labour capacity.
- Ms Scarf explained that to cope with migration flows, a maximum of 50% of the Library's collection of any single language is on loan to one library. In response to a question from Ms Watterson, she added that ideally loans are for a one year period and that it is still possible to refresh the collection as purchases continue to be made in alternate languages every year.
- Ms Milne congratulated the State Library team on its flexibility in adapting to the round-table feedback from the public library network. The Chair added that it was a positive thing that so many libraries had participated in the round-table discussion and that this had produced a favourable result.



Item 4: Papers for NOTING

4.1 Prefab and modular libraries update

- It was noted that the State Library has worked with architects from fjmt studio to develop a series of library plan templates, which have now been published on the State Library website. These templates include library layouts of various sizes and additional modules that can be put together to create usable library spaces of different sizes. These modules could also be used to extend existing library spaces, for example to include additional seating areas or a meeting room.
- Mr Morley advised that a library building seminar will take place later in 2017. He cited the modular libraries as a good example of State Government cooperative network funds in action, and will provide practical templates for councils, with the objective of making it more easy for them to consider library renewal or extension.
- The Committee NOTED the Prefab and modular libraries update.

4.2 Public Library statistics collection

- Cr Tout asked about the accessibility to the full suite of data sets for the public library statistics. Ms Scarf advised that there was a password for each council for their benchmarking results, and suggested that Cr Tout approach the local library manager to access the data.
- It was noted that the main statistics are published on the website and are accessible to all.
- The Committee NOTED the public library statistics update.

4.3 Collect Connect Community update

- Ms Scarf provided an update to the information PLCC received at the December 2016 meeting now that the program had commenced its rollout beyond the pilot. She advised it had been very successful, and that regional programs could now be planned.
- There was discussion about the possibility of one per zone participating in the program. Train the Trainer/public library champions were discussed too; however, it was agreed that as the content focused solely on the State Library website and resources it is best delivered by State Library staff. Ms Scarf advised she is looking at delivering the CCC program in conjunction with another half day program such as LIAC, Drug Info or eresources. She advised that the program would be delivered at the SW Zone meeting in September.
- The Committee NOTED the Collect Connect Community program update.

item 5: Other business

5.1 Library Council visits to public libraries

- The Chair advised that the intended visit to Port Macquarie for the PLCC September meeting together with Library Council was not feasible. As Port Macquarie was unable to host a visit by Library Council another regional library would be selected to visit that day as it was already in Members' calendars; this would be arranged by Ms Scarf and advised shortly.
- The PLCC meeting would be held at the State Library with a primary focus on resolving the public library funding proposal to take to Library Council and the Minister.
- The Chair asked that the PLCC Meeting date be changed to accommodate her other commitments. The new date to be confirmed by email with PLCC members. The meeting closed at 12.50pm.

Proposed Future 2017 Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 26 September 2017: 11am-1pm, State Library – Unaipon room, level 1 Macquarie building

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Tuesday 5 December 2017: 1pm-3pm, followed by Joint meeting with the Library Council from 3pm-4pm

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