



Public Libraries Consultative Committee
Minutes of the 86th meeting

Date and time	Tuesday, 5 December 2017, 1.00-2.30pm
Location	Unaipon Room, Level 1 Macquarie Building
Chair	Jan Richards AM (Library Council of NSW)
Members in Attendance	Adele Casey (NSWPLA, Bland Shire Council) Cr Les Lambert (NSWPLA, Narromine Shire Council) Dr John Vallance, State Librarian Hon George Souris AM (Library Council of NSW) Michael Caulfield (Library Council of NSW) Philip Edney (NSWPLA, City of Canada Bay) Robert Knight (NSWPLA, Executive Director, Riverina Regional Library) Cameron Morley, A/Executive Director, Public Libraries and Engagement, State Library of NSW Philippa Scarf, A/Manager, Public Library Services, State Library of NSW
Apologies	Cr Lesley Furneaux-Cook (LGNSW, Burwood Council) Cr Dallas Tout (NSWPLA, Wagga Wagga City Council) Cr Romola Hollywood (NSWPLA, Blue Mountains City Council) Margaret Kay (LGNSW)
SLNSW staff attending	Ross Balharrie (Item 3.1) Jenna Bain (Item 3.3)
Minutes	Susan Smith (State Library of NSW)

Minutes

Item 1: Preliminary Matters

1.1 Welcome and apologies

Dr Vallance chaired the meeting as Ms Richards was delayed at the airport.

1.2 Notification of other business

Nil notified.



Item 2: Minutes, Business arising and action register

2.1 Minutes of the 85th meeting

- The Chair requested comments on the minutes of the 85th meeting held on 26 September 2017. There being none, approval of the minutes as read was recorded.

2.2 Business arising

2.2.1 Funding bid

- Mr Morley advised that the Library Council had been briefed on the PLCC discussion about public library funding for the 2018-2022 period, noting that the stakeholder associations supported the funding bid however recommended seeking a higher figure (\$50M per annum).
- Mr Morley advised that the Minister had been briefed on the 2018-19 funding bid. The State Library has also lodged an intention to bid and provided information to Treasury. The next step will be to provide the detailed bid in February 2018. Mr Morley confirmed that all steps had been taken to ensure both the Minister and Treasury were briefed.
- The State Library has data and a range of positive stories to support the bid.
- Mr Souris AM recommended that the LGNSW and PLA make joint representation to meet the Minister. Following on from Cr Hollywood's recent article in the Blue Mountains Gazette advocating for increased public library funding, Cr Lambert advised that the LGNSW and PLA would be releasing a joint media release from the LGNSW Annual Conference.

2.2.2 Funding progress 2017-18

- Mr Morley advised that 50 Public Library Infrastructure Grant applications had been received. A total of \$5.5m in grants had been submitted. As was the case in 2016-17 there were fewer applications. One of the reasons for the reduced number of applications could be attributed to amalgamations.
- Mr Morley reported that \$6m in subsidies payments were ready to pay; the full \$21m is expected to be disbursed by February 2018.

2.2.3 Multicultural bulk loans

- Ms Scarf confirmed that the revised bulk loans distribution model had been launched. Since its activation in October 2017, 689 requests have been received; long term loans have increased, and most libraries are requesting items in more than one LOTE language.
- It was agreed that the term multicultural bulk loans does not adequately describe the service. Dr Vallance commented that the quality of the books purchased was exceptional and this is a factor that should be promoted. It was agreed to look at an alternate name for the service.

2.2.4 Professional development

- Mr Morley and Ms Scarf reported that the public library professional development proposal had been discussed at the Strategic Network Committee (SNC). The SNC agreed, as had PLCC, that a conference-style program over two days would not be as practicable for public library staff as the current single day model, which is easier to release staff to attend. A regional program aimed at public library staff rather than managers was considered a priority. Face to face programs in regional areas would be the most effective way to reach more public library staff. NSWPLA professional development funds could be made available for public library staff travel. The State Library will provide a proposed program to PLCC early next year. Dr Vallance enquired about the delivery of vocational training in public libraries. Mr Knight confirmed this would only be feasible if accompanied by additional funding, however it coincided with the reinvention of libraries within their local communities.



Item 3: Papers for DISCUSSION & NOTING

3.1 NSW.net report for 2017

- Mr Balharrie attended for this item and provided an update to the Committee of NSW.net activities and achievements.
- Mr Balharrie noted that he has been acting as the Lead NSW.net since January 2017 in the absence of Joyce Azzopardi who has been on extended leave due to illness. As a result of reduced staffing it had been necessary to reschedule some projects and postpone eContent and technology trials. Key achievements included:
 - 56 new and existing internet service upgrades
 - 48 network upgrade proposals
 - 3 new Wi-Fi hotspots installed
 - 27 public libraries had end-of-life firewalls upgraded
 - 1696 technical support enquiries answered
- Over 7M Wi-Fi hotspot logins were recorded for 2016/17. The increase in demand for free public library Wi-Fi in 2017 highlights the vital role libraries play in providing equitable community access to the wide range of education, government, health and business services accessible over the internet.
- In February 2017 Telstra notified NSW.net of their intention to decommission the Pacnet network (PACNET was acquired by Telstra approximately 18 months earlier). At the time 52% (245) of all NSW.net subsidised internet links in public libraries across the state were sourced from Pacnet. Telstra, which had declined previous approaches by NSW.net to participate in the subsidised internet scheme, expressed an interest in forming a partnership with the State Library. After six months of negotiations an agreement was reached with Telstra to offer subsidised unlimited broadband ADSL2+ and NBN services to public libraries. It is anticipated that the Pacnet transition will continue throughout 2018.
- NSW.net can now offer the NSWPLN connectivity offerings from Telstra, TPG & Optus (all tier 1 carriers).

The PLCC Committee:

1. **NOTED** the 2017 NSW.net report and thanked Mr Balharrie for his hard work which had successfully guided the NSW.net service over the last 12 months.

3.2 Advice sought from the Crown Solicitor's Office

- Mr Morley and Ms Scarf advised that advice had been sought from the Crown Solicitor's Office about the Australian Performing Rights Association (APRA) and NSW public library computers.
- Once written advice has been received it will be shared with the NSW public library network.

3.3 Amplify

- Ms Jenna Bain attended for this item and presented her proposal to extend the State Library's audio transcription tool, Amplify, to an "as-a-service" model that will provide transcription, hosting and development services to NSW public libraries.

The PLCC Committee:

1. **NOTED** the proposal to extend Amplify to NSW public libraries.
2. **APPROVED** a pilot of the Amplify program for the NSW public library network to be run over two financial periods from February 2018 to July 2019.



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item 4: Other business

Ms Richards AM thanked Dr Vallance for chairing the meeting in her absence, and thanked the PLCC Committee members for their input over the year.

The meeting closed at 2.25pm prior to the Joint PLCC/Library Council meeting.