

Media Release

\$6M boost for NSW public library infrastructure

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The State Government has announced \$6 million in funding for public libraries across the State as part of the Public Library Infrastructure Grant program.

NSW Minister for the Arts the Hon Ben Franklin MLC said 21 local councils will receive grants for projects this year to extend and improve public library buildings, spaces and information technology for NSW communities.

“This significant grant program is part of the additional \$60M that the Perrottet Government has provided to enhance library services and facilities across the State,” Mr Franklin said.

“I am particularly pleased that this funding will transform library buildings and spaces for communities all over NSW. Good libraries contribute to community resilience with quality facilities, great collections and access to the internet, and we are pleased to help councils to upgrade these critical services.”

“A record \$40.468M will be provided to councils this year in support of libraries, with further increases locked in for next year and beyond. Over \$165M has been committed for the next four years, ensuring that our libraries can continue to improve.”

NSW State Librarian John Vallance is delighted that the funds will enable councils to develop or improve their services.

“You can tell the health of a society from the support it gives its public libraries. This is truly wonderful news for the communities across the State.”

The Public Library Infrastructure Grants program is administered by the State Library of NSW on behalf of the Library Council of NSW.

This year’s funding recipients are:

- **Balranald Council**, \$172,610 for improvements to the library’s children’s area, bathrooms and community programming spaces.
- **Bogan Shire Council**, \$300,149 to extend Nyngan Library by converting storage space into public space and adding an enclosed deck area for library activities.
- **Campbelltown City Council**, \$450,000 to replace and upgrade the shelving and collection display at Campbelltown’s HJ Daley Library, and provide new laptops with wi-fi for loan to the community.

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- **Central Coast Council**, \$165,000 to provide self-service smart book lockers at Erina, Tuggerah and The Entrance, enabling library users to access collections out of hours.
- **Clarence Valley Council**, \$475,000 for the furniture and fit-out of the new Yamba Library.
- **Cowra Council**, \$276,662 to upgrade the Cowra Library including new mobile shelving, digital reader-printer equipment and new flooring.
- **Fairfield City Council**, \$198,800 for a mobile library to provide library outreach services across the community, including collections and technology.
- **Griffith City Council**, \$428,050 to refurbish Griffith City Library, including new furniture, flexible seating, mobile shelving, a new service area and rearranged spaces to maximise access for the community.
- **Ku-ring-gai Council**, \$450,000 to refurbish Gordon Library, including new furniture, better use of space, additional seating, mobile shelving, a new service and technology area to maximise access for the community.
- **Leeton Shire Council**, \$76,374 to provide new public access technology, new seating and furniture (including group study), and new collection shelving and display at Leeton Library.
- **Lismore City Council**, \$325,427 for Lismore City Library to replace the shelving, furniture and equipment that was destroyed in the recent floods. The new items will be mobile, making it easier to relocate ahead of any future floods.
- **Lismore City Council** (in partnership with **Ballina, Byron and Tweed**), \$475,000 to provide a new mobile library, comprising a prime mover and custom-built trailer, for delivery of library services to the villages and remote localities of the four local government areas.
- **Lithgow City Library**, \$452,940 to upgrade the Lithgow Library spaces, providing new shelving, furniture, an enhanced mezzanine level, event spaces and study/meeting rooms.
- **Liverpool City Council**, \$450,000 toward the fit-out of the new Liverpool City Library, which will be a state-of-the-art facility with comprehensive collections and a wide range of spaces for the community.
- **Liverpool Plains Shire**, \$40,685 to upgrade the furniture, fittings and signage at Werris Creek Library.
- **Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council**, \$95,000 to provide smart book lockers to enable out of hours access to collections for library members.

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- **Richmond Valley Council**, \$173,803 to create meeting and study rooms at Casino Library including modern teleconference facilities and recording equipment.
- **Ryde City Council**, \$100,000 toward the upgrading of furniture and shelving at North Ryde and Gladesville libraries.
- **Shoalhaven Council**, \$450,000 toward the furniture and fit-out of the new Sanctuary Point Library.
- **Sutherland Shire Council**, \$250,000 toward the furniture and fit-out of the new Kirrawee Library.
- **Tweed Shire Council**, \$194,500 for an upgrade of Kingscliff Library facilities including a new children's area, a new study area, a new layout and better service areas.

All NSW councils were invited to apply for grants in September 2022.

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