



**Ben Franklin**  
Minister for the Arts

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### \$6M BOOST FOR NSW PUBLIC LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Minister for the Arts Ben Franklin said 26 local councils, including several in Sydney, will receive grants for projects this year to extend and improve public library buildings, spaces and information technology for local communities.

“This significant grant program is part of the additional \$60 million over four years the NSW Government is providing to enhance library services and facilities across both regional and metropolitan areas,” said Mr Franklin.

“I am particularly delighted to see that this funding will transform library buildings and services for a number of communities. Good libraries contribute to community resilience with quality facilities, great collections, and access to the internet, and we are so pleased to help councils upgrade these critical services.

“A record \$38.6 million will be provided to councils this year in support of libraries, with further increases to come next year.”

NSW State Librarian Dr John Vallance said the funds will enable councils to develop and improve library buildings and mobile library services.

“Two years of fires, floods and pandemic have left the people of New South Wales more in need of strong, safe, well-provisioned libraries than ever before. Public library funding is one of the State Government’s most significant contributions to the health of our communities.”

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

All NSW councils were invited to apply for grants in August 2021. \$24 million will be allocated under the program over four years.

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This year's funding recipients are:

- **Ballina Shire Council**, \$88,947 for improvements to Lennox Head and Ballina libraries with the installation of mobile shelving, a new service desk with better accessibility, as well as upgrades to the air conditioning in both branches.
- **Balranald Shire Council**, \$67,862 to extend the Balranald Library and enable the development of a technology space for the community. Building modifications will improve access and supervision within the library.
- **Bega Valley Shire Council**, \$51,200 to refurbish the courtyard at Tura Marrang Library to create an attractive and usable outdoor library space, including a comfortable community reading and library programs space with shade, landscaping and furniture.
- **Blacktown City Council**, \$242,437 to refurbish Max Webber Library's technology area to include community training and meeting rooms, and a digital recording studio.
- **Blue Mountains City Council**, \$500,000 to renovate and extend Springwood Library, adding 360 square metres of community space. The refurbishment will include meeting rooms with multimedia capacity, a dedicated study room and a new local studies space with archival storage.
- **Campbelltown City Council**, \$69,988 for a library outreach vehicle to increase programs and services for socially isolated members of the community who cannot easily access a library branch. The vehicle will also enable the library to attend community events to increase awareness of library services.
- **City of Canada Bay Council**, \$209,803 to reconfigure spaces in Five Dock Library to increase flexibility and capacity for larger programs. A new range of seating will be purchased, and a new improved service desk will free up additional space for the community.
- **Fairfield City Council**, \$149,923 to transform a current space at the Whitlam Library in Cabramatta to create an attractive and usable youth area with access to technology, collections and space for programs. New furniture will allow for flexible use of the space with adaptable workspaces and moveable furniture.
- **Greater Hume Council**, \$199,801 to improve the amenity of Henty Library with new shelving and circulation desk, upgrades to the meeting room and the creation of a pleasant outdoor space. The project includes accessibility upgrades to the entrance and doorway.
- **Junee Shire Council**, \$319,110 to refurbish Junee Library increasing the usable public space in the library by removing a large service desk and office. Funds will also provide flexible furniture throughout the library, and upgrade lighting, electicals and flooring.
- **Lake Macquarie City Council**, \$50,000 to provide the technology to enable after-hours access at Belmont, Cardiff and Speers Point libraries, increasing library availability for the community.
- **Lane Cove Council**, \$500,000 towards a new state of the art 1,000 sqm library for St Leonards, a community currently without a branch. The library will be ideally situated in a growing shopping and residential development close to public transport.
- **Narrandera Shire Council**, \$35,523 to enhance access to collections and increase space for programs in Narrandera Library's children's area. The project will include new mobile shelving, furniture, signage and technology.

- **Oberon Council**, \$120,000 to assist council to complete the Oberon Community Hub project with fitout of the library including seating, shelving, furniture for children's and youth areas and meeting rooms.
- **City of Parramatta Council**, \$500,000 towards the furniture, shelving and fitout of the new 4,460 sqm Parramatta City Library, a significant landmark public library co-located with a range of council and community services.
- **Port Macquarie Hastings Council**, \$497,264 to optimise the usability of Port Macquarie Library by improving internal and external library spaces. The funding will cover a new service desk, upgraded shelving, indoor and outdoor furniture and signage.
- **Port Stephens Council**, \$68,540 to refurbish Port Stephens mobile library, including new joinery, furniture, technology, carpet and lighting.
- **Snowy Monaro Regional Council**, \$316,458 towards the development of the new public library for Jindabyne, a community that has not had a public library until this project. The 500 sqm library is being constructed with an innovative prefabricated process that will be of great interest to other councils.
- **Tamworth Regional Council**, \$170,792 for upgrades to Barraba, Kootingal, Manilla and Nundle libraries. Improvements include new shelving, seating and furniture and the introduction of Aboriginal placemaking elements.
- **Temora Shire Council**, \$102,087 for improvements to Temora library as the final stage of an ongoing renovation project. This phase includes painting and new signage, upgraded lighting, automatic doors and accessible entrance.
- **Tenterfield Shire Council**, \$196,886 to refurbish Tenterfield Library, improving the usability and appeal. The project includes replacing the large service desk, new shelving, tables and seating, new carpet and a microfilm cabinet.
- **Tweed Shire Council**, \$135,000 to renovate Murwillumbah Library with a new service desk, shelving and furniture, upgraded technology, and new carpet and blinds. Outdoor space at the library will be upgraded with a shade structure and furniture to create an attractive reading and program area.
- **Upper Hunter Shire Council**, \$500,000 towards the new library which will provide the Scone community with a larger and more centrally located library. The funds will contribute to the fitout of the library, including furniture and shelving.
- **Upper Lachlan Shire Council**, \$189,564 to refurbish Crookwell and Gunning library spaces, including the provision of new furniture and flooring, mobile shelving for flexible use of the library spaces, as well as a new service desk and signage.
- **Warren Shire Council**, \$315,723 to improve access to Warren Shire Library with the installation of automatic entrance doors. The significant improvements to the space adjoining the library will provide an outdoor reading and activity area.
- **Wollondilly Shire Council**, \$403,092 to provide increased community space at Wollondilly Library. Existing space will also be improved with new furniture and layout to provide study spaces, a community lounge, meeting room and collection area.