



3 July 2018

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA:

- (1) **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEAL WITH MATTERS IN CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**
- (2) **MAYORAL MINUTES**
MM6/2018 Library Funding.....2
- (3) **MOTIONS OF URGENCY**
- (4) **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**
- (5) **CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY**
- (6) **WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
- (7) **BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**
- (8) **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**
- (9) **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayoral Minute

Report No. MM6/2018

General Manager's Unit



MAYORAL MINUTE No. MM6/2018

SUBJECT: LIBRARY FUNDING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council write to the Premier, The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP and the Treasurer, The Hon. Dominic Perrottet, MP condemning the NSW Government cutting funding to libraries in the recent State budget.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

As part of the recent NSW Government Budget, it was announced the NSW Government intends to cut library funding by 18%. This will impact 368 libraries across the state, including the Cessnock Library and Kurri Kurri Library. It is a major blow for the residents of these communities.

According to LG NSW, the State budget revealed cuts in library funding from \$28.8m in 2017-18 to \$23.5m in 2018-19, with state funding for public libraries dropping from 23% of costs in 1980, to 7% in 2017. The balance of the funding liability is increasingly being provided by local government.

Our libraries are vibrant community hubs and have a very special role in our community. They are not just a service that has great resources, but provide a space where people connect, learn and are entertained.

In the Cessnock Local Government Area our libraries are thriving. The events, activities and initiatives our libraries offer to residents is diverse and there is something for our youngest residents and oldest residents. This is what makes them such a unique service. They are not focused on one demographic but everyone. Whether it's NAIDOC Week, Youth Week or Seniors Week, the libraries are involved.

As our communities grow the need for improved library services increases. The importance of libraries needs to be recognised and we need to be investing in these spaces that provide an overwhelming positive benefit to the entire community.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report