



WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 Implementation Plan 2023





City of Canning. Cover images (left to right, top to bottom): City of Wanneroo, City of Armadale, City of Gosnells

WA Public Library Strategy 2022 – 2026

The *WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026* (the Strategy) seeks to achieve significant outcomes for WA communities through a stronger, more sustainable and more connected public library system. The Strategy's priorities for the future are framed around three pillars.

Our services offer great opportunities to learn, develop and entertain! With 232 branches across the state, WA public libraries are proud to provide:

- Libraries Strengthening Communities
- Digitally Inclusive Libraries
- Public Libraries Valued as an Essential Community Asset

These priorities will drive implementation of the Strategy over the next five years.

The Strategy draws on extensive consultation with library users and the WA community, with community organisations, with partners in State and local government and within the public library sector.

The Strategy emphasises joint decision-making and accountability by both tiers of government to ensure that the delivery of public library services in WA is efficient and effective. Working together the signatories to the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (the Agreement) – the Library Board of WA, the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries, the WA Local Government Association, Local Government Professionals WA and Public Libraries WA will strive to give effect to their shared vision:

A vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network at the heart of the Western Australian community where people can connect, learn and grow.



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Implementation Plan

Actions

The Strategy presents key priorities against each of its three pillars. For each of these priorities this Implementation Plan articulates:

- a set of high-level actions to be taken to give effect to each priority in the first year of the strategy.
- timelines for commencement and implementation of each action
- lead responsibility for implementation of each action

Actions chosen for year 1 implementation are based largely on community and sector feedback received during the development of the strategy and this implementation plan. Where possible they are aligned to Government strategies and funding opportunities.

Governance

Delivery of actions under the Strategy will be overseen by the Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG), which includes representatives from all signatories to the Agreement.

Planning and implementation of actions under the Strategy will, in most instances, be led by multi-agency project groups. Groups will consist of representatives of relevant PLWG member agencies.

PLWG will assess and approve planning and resourcing for all actions under the Strategy. Project groups will report regularly to PLWG on the delivery and outcomes of their actions.



Town of Port Hedland

Implementation Plan

Evaluation

Evaluation is critical to ensure that actions under the strategy deliver outcomes for the community and the sector. To do this project groups will make use of Local Government Professionals WA's comprehensive outcomes evaluation framework – *Measuring Our Impact: Evaluation framework for measuring the impact of community development work across local government in Western Australia*.

Project groups will evaluate the outcomes they have delivered using this methodology and report the results to PLWG. Evaluation will measure progress towards achieving the aims of the strategy and inform future initiatives.



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Pillar 1

Priority	Action	Commence	Duration	Responsibility
1.1	Develop and promote models of community-led library services.	2022-23	1 year	PLWA
1.2	Deliver sessions at the Local Government Professionals Community Development conference [Topic: Community led library services] and the WALGA Convention [Topic: Public libraries & community partnerships].	2023	1 year	LG Professionals WA, WALGA
1.3	Seek community feedback on access to online learning resources through public libraries and consider options for Statewide subscriptions and agreements.	2023	1 year	SLWA
1.2 & 1.4	Extend the 'library support worker' pilot program to 2-3 additional libraries with an identified community need, including at least 1 regional library. Develop resources sharing key learnings from pilot projects for benefit of sector.	2022/2023	2 years Second year	SLWA
1.5	Identify and work with one West Australian Aboriginal community to determine the need and opportunity to develop a knowledge centre to collect and preserve local knowledge and language. Opportunities for complementary library services will also be explored.	2022/2023	Ongoing	SLWA
1.5	Ensure that Local Government Reconciliation Hub project (led by Reconciliation WA) includes content of relevance to public libraries.	2023	Ongoing	WALGA, DLGSC

Pillar 2

Priority	Action	Commence	Duration	Responsibility
2.1 & 2.2	Develop a business case to seek funding for the roll out of equipment and training to public libraries and CRCs in support of improved digital literacy for all West Australians. This project will also deliver on outcomes under the Digital Inclusion Blueprint for WA.	2022/2023	1 year	SLWA, DPIRD
2.3	<p>Conduct environmental scan of public libraries to determine options and preferences for shared LMS including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of current LMS systems • Location of consortia • Interest and availability in moving to alternative library management systems currently used by WA public libraries • Interest / availability in moving to SLWA library management system 	2023	1 year	SLWA
2.3	Onboard public libraries to the SLWA library management system.	2022/2023	Ongoing	SLWA

Pillar 3

Priority	Action	Commence	Duration	Responsibility
3.1	Develop annual Public Libraries WA Impact Stories publication to showcase achievements of public libraries.	2023	1 - 2 years	PLWA
3.1	Establish a Local Government Public Library Network Google Group to connect Local Government staff working in and interested in public libraries to share knowledge, learnings and information.	2023	1 year	WALGA
3.1	Provide training for public library staff to use outcomes measurement frameworks to better measure and communicate the impact of their services.	2022	1 year	LG Professionals WA, PLWA
3.1	Consult with public libraries/ Local Government in relation to the data collected through the annual SLWA Return i.e. is it capturing the data that is best able to demonstrate value/ impact of public libraries?	2022	1 year	SLWA, PLWA
3.2	Refocus the Kay Poustie Scholarship on research that demonstrates the social impact and economic value of WA Public Libraries.	2022	Ongoing	PLWA
3.3	Development of a report that demonstrates the return on investment for WA public libraries to support advocacy and sourcing of sustainable funding.	2023 / 2024	1 - 2 years	PLWA

