



WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 Implementation Plan Year 2



STATE LIBRARY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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.



Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes



City of South Perth. Cover image: Shire of Boyup Brook.

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 2 implementation are based on community and sector feedback received during the development of the strategy and build on the outcomes achieved in year 1. 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, consist of representatives of relevant PLWG member agencies.

PLWG will assess and approve planning and resourcing for all actions under the Strategy. Representatives of project lead agencies will report regularly to PLWG on the delivery and outcomes of their actions.



Shire of Collie

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.



Town of Port Hedland

Pillar 1

Priority	Action	Commence	Duration	Responsibility
1.1	Develop a report to promote models of community-led library services within the Western Australian public library sector.	2023	2 years	PLWA
1.1	Undertake a review of public library governance and reporting mechanisms, ensuring that they reflect the current relationship between State and Local Government, as well as current and future community expectations and needs for public library services.	2024	2 years	SLWA
1.2	Deliver a professional development event for public libraries, focussed on the development of community partnerships.	2024	2 years	WALGA
1.2	Provide access to appropriate professional development for public library staff on cross-cultural communication and engagement with their CALD communities.	2024	1 year	SLWA
1.2 & 1.4	Develop a report outlining the support worker models currently in operation in Western Australian public libraries to enable other libraries to learn from and/or adopt similar services.	2024	1 year	SLWA
1.4	Consult, develop and publish a State-wide statement on the current and future role of public libraries in enabling and supporting socially inclusive communities.	2024	1 year	PLWA
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.	2023	2 years	SLWA
1.5	Ensure that Local Government Reconciliation Hub project (led by Reconciliation WA) includes content of relevance to public libraries.	2023	Ongoing	WALGA
1.5	Provide training to enable all Western Australian public libraries to develop stronger relationships with local Aboriginal people and to make library spaces and collections more welcoming and engaging for Aboriginal people.	2024	1 year	SLWA

Pillar 2

Priority	Action	Commence	Duration	Responsibility
2.1 & 2.2	<p>Enable public libraries to better support the uplift of digital literacy and digital inclusion in their communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnering with WACOSS to conduct consultation with regional Western Australian Local Governments to understand the barriers to the provision of public internet and associated devices. Promote and provide access to basic digital literacy training and resources. 	2024	2 years	SLWA / PLWA
2.3	Onboard public libraries to the SLWA library management system to support business continuity in regional libraries with end of life library management systems.	2024	1 year	SLWA

Pillar 3

Priority	Action	Commence	Duration	Responsibility
3.1	Review effectiveness of data collected from public libraries to ensure it is effective in describing the benefits and opportunities of public library services, and how the data is reported to State Government and the Australian Public Libraries Alliance.	2024	2 years	SLWA
3.3	Develop a report that demonstrates the return on investment for Western Australian public libraries to support advocacy and sourcing of sustainable funding.	2024	1 year	PLWA



Shire of Waroona



Shire of Cranbrook