

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES- PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday 16 August 2023

MAY 2023 COMMONWEALTH BUDGET FUNDING FOR MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL WORKS

Question: In terms of maintenance and capital works, could you clarify how much you have been allocated out of the last budget? Again, I'm just going off the last committee hearings. The government was in the process of setting up a process to apply for capital works projects. I'm interested in an update on how much you got and what it looks like going forward.

The Government provided funding of:

- **\$11.6m over 4 years** to construct a 1004 m2 modular extension at the northern end of the Library owned Repository at Hume.
- **\$31m over 2 years** for high priority capital works:
 - **Stage 2 Heritage windows \$9.666 million over two years** (\$0.223 million in 2023-24 and \$9.443 million in 2024-25).
 - Level 1 – Level 4 south and east side windows; and
 - Ground floor windows including Main Reading Room bay windows, main entry windows and doors, the louvres and the stained glass.
 - **Base Building Services Upgrade** (inc heating, ventilation and air-conditioning stages 4 – 5): **\$16.379 million over two years** (\$10.765 million in 2023-24 and \$5.614 million in 2024-25)
 - Replacement of 10 Air Handling Units (AHUs) (19% of total count);
 - Replacement of ductwork associated with the AHUs (18% of total count);
 - Replacement of 87 fire/smoke dampers (21% of total count); and
 - Water and condenser pipework replacement for AHUs (3% of total count).
 - Note - There is likely to be some rephasing of the budget for operational reasons between the two years with a majority of the works likely to be delivered in 2024-25.
 - **Critical building safety works in Contingency Reserve \$4.873 million** (yet to be appropriated – pending costing verification)
 - Nitrate store and distribution board room remediation;
 - graphical Fire Indicator Panel (FIP) and Early Warning Intercom System (EWIS) and sub-panels, and supporting communications network upgrades;
 - Waterproofing, drainage and safety reparations on podium; and
 - replacement of HV substation and Power Factor Correction.
- **\$23.7m financial sustainability funding uplift** over 4 years to support:
 - preventative maintenance and repairs of **\$17.7m over 4 years** (2023-24 to 2026-27);
 - collection storage master plan works and equipment **\$5m over 4 years** (2023-24 to 2026-27);
 - chiller 3 replacement **\$1.0m** (2025 – 26); and
 - Collection Storage Masterplan projects to consolidate and refurbish storage areas in Parkes building and provide for growth for Special Collections on site.

REGIONAL AND REMOTE ACCESS

Question: You're very committed to the extension out into regional and more remote parts. Could you give me some indication of the local libraries that you would be connected to in our regional and remote areas? How much interaction do you receive from them as a percentage of what you provide? What percentage of those interactions is coming from individuals in regional and remote areas? What percentage is coming through local libraries to you?

In the 2022-23 financial year, the National Library of Australia reached many Australians across remote, rural and regional areas through our Research and Information Inquiries. Over 9500 (approximately 28%) of inquiries received via the Library's 'Ask a Librarian' service; research user registrations and fellowship and grant programs were from regional and remote areas.

The National Library also partners with close to 900 organisations across Australia through Trove Collaborative Services (TCS). These partners consist of a range of cultural organisations, including public libraries. There are 327 public libraries currently partnering with us across Australia, of which 117 (36%) are metropolitan and 210 (64%) regional and rural local libraries. Through TCS, small organisations can be part of a central, national infrastructure at no cost.

As part of TCS, the Library delivers a national service that enables the sharing of resources between libraries, including to public libraries. In 2022-23, there were 18,770 resources shared with public libraries through this service. 13,633 (73%) resources were shared to metropolitan located libraries and 5,137 (27%) resources were shared to regional and rural local libraries.

In 2022-23, Trove had 12.9 million individual sessions at an average of 8 minutes per session. Trove does not capture personal information of users but is able to provide a generic location. In 2022-23, 83.07% of Trove sessions were from metropolitan locations and the remaining 16.93% were from regional and rural Australia.

The Community Heritage Grants program, primarily funded by the Office for the Arts and administered by the Library, supports community organisations to identify and care for significant Australian cultural heritage collections. Over the previous three years, 8% of successful applications were to libraries, with 29% of those being to libraries in rural and remote areas. Notable grant recipients in recent years have been Mount Isa Library and Alice Springs Public Library.