

STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA — STRATEGIC PLAN 2018–2022

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [9.14 am]: I would also like to inform the house that the State Library of Western Australia has released its strategic plan 2018–2022. The library's strategic plan is about connecting people with ideas, embracing information access for everyone, the digital transformation of collections and service delivery, and providing opportunities for lifelong learning for all Western Australians. The State Library will focus its collections, services, programs and events towards engaging with all members of the community, promoting the importance of literacy and learning in the digital world, and becoming the institution of choice for lifelong and self-directed learning.

Responsible for collecting, preserving and making available the documentary heritage of Western Australia, the State Library had its origins in 1899. On opening day, the library held 1 796 books and was visited by 100 people. Today, the State Library holds hundreds of thousands of books, along with information in many physical and digital formats. Each year, more than one million people visit in person, and a similar number of people visit online, making it the most visited cultural institution in the state. Visitors include people from all ages and cultural, socioeconomic and educational backgrounds, including families visiting for fun sessions to develop early childhood literacy, students learning about the library's unique Western Australian resources, family historians tracing their stories, researchers and authors using primary documents for research and as a source of inspiration for their creative output, and ordinary and extraordinary people on their own learning journey.

The State Library's strategic plan 2018–2022 builds upon a history of individuals, organisations and communities making important contributions to the library's heritage collections. The State Library partners with very diverse organisations, including government, non-government, for profit and not-for-profits, to deliver library services to all Western Australians no matter where they live in this vast state. The State Library also works with organisations and individuals who donate material to the state's collections. These partnerships extend the capability, reach and impact of library services across the state.

I commend the work of the Library Board of Western Australia and the staff and volunteers of the State Library. I suggest that all members take the time to read the State Library's strategic plan, visit the library in the Perth Cultural Centre Precinct in person or online and reflect on the importance of this vital Western Australian cultural institution.