

STATE LIBRARY QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

State Library invests over \$320,000 to revitalise rural Queensland libraries

Public libraries from Cooktown to Goondiwindi will benefit from more than \$320,000 in State Library of Queensland grants—supporting improved services, spaces and community programs across regional and remote Queensland.

The funding, delivered through the Rural Libraries Queensland (RLQ) Places and Spaces Grant program, will distribute \$320,834 across nine council areas to help libraries respond to local needs.

The successful recipients are Cook Shire Council, Croydon Shire Council, Douglas Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council, Goondiwindi Regional Council, Longreach Regional Council, Maranoa Regional Council, Paroo Shire Council and Winton Shire Council.

Makerspaces were a popular focus, with some libraries securing equipment such as 3D printers and virtual reality technology to support creativity, storytelling and digital literacy. Other projects range from creating new spaces that improve access and supporting early literacy programs, to replacing unsafe carpet and adding flexible furniture.

Over the past 18 months, State Library has identified a range of challenges affecting smaller libraries, including outdated technology, ageing furniture and the need to refresh outreach services.

These grants will help councils address those challenges while ensuring local libraries remain welcoming, contemporary spaces where communities can connect, learn, create and access information.

Quotes from Minister for Education and the Arts John-Paul Langbroek:

"With libraries at the heart of so many of our regional communities, it's important these vital hubs of education, information and culture are well-maintained and responsive to the changing needs of Queenslanders.

"Supported by the Crisafulli Government, this funding will help councils across the state to refresh library spaces, improve access to technology and strengthen outreach services.

"Delivering on the vision of our 10-year arts and culture strategy, Queensland's Time to Shine, this investment will deliver real social, educational and cultural benefits for Queensland communities."

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

"Public libraries are trusted community hubs that support reading, lifelong learning, digital inclusion, creativity and social connection.

"By investing in practical improvements such as technology, furnishings and outreach resources, councils can create more flexible and engaging library environments that respond to local needs and community aspirations.

"These improvements will ensure libraries across Queensland remain welcoming, relevant and inclusive spaces now and into the future."

Council	Project	Funding
Cook Shire Council	Cooktown Library digital hub refurbishment	\$37,495.70
Croydon Shire Council	Croydon Library refurbishment project	\$35,000.55
Douglas Shire Council	Mossman Library to create a new outdoor space to expand program delivery	\$49,995
Etheridge Shire Council	Etheridge Library to create a dedicated makerspace	\$14,810
Goondiwindi Regional Council	Goondiwindi Libraries to create new spaces for children and families	\$32,371
Longreach Regional Council	Longreach Library refurbishment to include adult study space	\$49,428
Maranoa Regional Council	Upgrading Roma Library Children's and Outdoor Areas project	\$50,000
Paroo Shire Council	Cunnamulla Library refurbishment	\$32,784.98
Winton Shire Council	Winton Library creative technologies and community learning hub	\$18,949

Media enquiries

media@slq.qld.gov.au

(07) 3840 7897

Interviews available on request.