

# Media Release

**The Hon Shaun Leane MLC**  
Minister for Local Government  
Minister for Suburban Development  
Minister for Veterans



Wednesday, 19 January 2022

## ARARAT LIBRARY REACHES OUT TO MORE IN THE COMMUNITY

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to support the Ararat Rural City Council better serve the local community.

Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane joined the Council today to officially unveil the upgraded mobile library and announce additional funding for a 24-hour smart locker system.

Through the *Living Libraries Infrastructure Program*, Ararat Rural City Council received \$120,000 for the new vehicle which is now on the road and serving towns in the municipality including Streatham, Elmhurst, Pomonal, Moyston and Willaura and giving them access to weekly library services.

Ararat Rural City Council will also receive \$23,500 from the Labor Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program to set up a smart locker system at the Ararat Library, allowing members 24-hour access for drop off pick up.

This is in addition to the more than \$67,000 provide to upgrade and refurbish the Ararat Library building making it a more welcoming place for locals to work, study and access the fantastic programs it has on offer.

The Living Libraries Infrastructure Program enables councils to deliver new or renewed library infrastructure to strengthen communities and encourage lifelong learning.

Since 2015 the Government has invested more than \$42.6 million into 109 Living Libraries projects, allowing a total investment of \$297.2 million for new libraries, upgrades to existing facilities and library vans.

For more information on Living Libraries and this year's successful applications visit [localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants/living-libraries-infrastructure-program](http://localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants/living-libraries-infrastructure-program).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane

*"We're continuing to ensure local libraries have all they need to deliver the very best programs and services to their communities."*

*"Victorians love their libraries, and this is wonderful for all those living in Ararat and surrounds, they are a tremendous resource which play a vital role in community connectedness."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Jaala Pulford

*"It's great the Ararat Library now has a brand new mobile library, upgrades to the building and now this grant allowing locals to borrow and return items at their convenience."*