

# Media Release

**The Hon Melissa Horne MP**

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Suburban Development



Monday, 26 September 2022

## FUNDING BOOST TO DELIVER FIRST-CLASS LIBRARIES FOR VICTORIANS

New and improved local libraries are on the way for communities across Victoria thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Local Government Minister Melissa Horne announced 11 successful projects will receive a share of more than \$4 million from the latest round of the Labor Government's *Living Libraries Infrastructure Program*.

From Melbourne's CBD through to rural and regional Victoria, the Government is supporting councils and regional libraries to deliver more programs, upgrade spaces, build new libraries and provide mobile library vans so that more community members have access to public library services.

This year's funding includes \$1 million each towards the Munro Library and Community Hub at Queen Victoria Market, the Baw Baw Civic Precinct library in Warragul, as well as the expansion of Heathcote Library.

Funding from the latest round will also go towards a new community library precinct in Rupanyup, mobile library services in East Gippsland, Golden Plains, Hindmarsh and Yarra Plenty, equipment upgrades in the Southern Grampians, an 'open library' in Warrandyte, and the addition of new community rooms at Hoppers Crossing Library.

Since 2014, the Government has invested more than \$47.1 million dollars into 120 library infrastructure projects, allowing a combined total investment with local councils of \$345.8 million.

Victoria is home to 281 public libraries, with around two million registered members and attracting 30 million visits each year.

For more information on *Living Libraries Infrastructure Program* and this year's successful applications, visit [localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants](http://localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne

*"Our public libraries make a real difference across the state, providing access to a reliable source of knowledge, creating opportunities for social connection and entertainment for local communities."*

*"Investing in libraries helps build a lasting legacy by ensuring all Victorians no matter where they live can learn and stay connected."*