

# Media Release

**The Hon Nick Staikos MP**  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister for Local Government



Thursday, 5 June 2025

## EXPANDING LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE GOULBURN VALLEY

The Allan Labor Government is providing Goulburn Valley residents with access to expanded services and longer opening hours at their local libraries, thanks to the support from the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos today visited Cobram Library to celebrate the completion of six Open Access Libraries projects, which have allowed libraries across the region to install the infrastructure they need to expand their operating hours.

Upgrades at libraries in Cobram and Nathalia include the installation of CCTV, automated lighting, self-service kiosks, and digital resources – allowing both libraries to operate from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

In Shepparton, Mooroopna, Violet Town and Avenel the community is benefiting from expanded hours which will provide library users with access to services including Wi-Fi, computers, study spaces, and printing services outside of non-operational hours.

Over the last nine years, the Victorian Government has invested more than \$49.3 million dollars into 139 library infrastructure projects through the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

The Victorian Government recognises the important role libraries play in regional communities by providing free public access to information and technology, literacy support and training that engages communities and enriches community lives.

For more information on the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, visit [localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants](http://localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants)

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos

*"Libraries are so much more than books – they foster lifelong learners and contribute to the connections that strengthen and enrich Victorian communities."*

*"We recognise that our libraries provide a safe, supported community space for local people in the Goulburn Valley, and provide opportunities for locals to engage in a wide range of activities."*

*"By upgrading infrastructure and expanding operating hours through our Living Libraries Infrastructure Program – we are ensuring our libraries meet communities' needs."*