

Steve McGhie MP

STATE MEMBER FOR MELTON



Cr Lara Carli
MAYOR
Melton City Council
PO Box 21
MELTON VIC 3337



Dear Mayor Carli

Thank you for your letter of supporting libraries.

Public libraries are about more than books – they are vital community spaces that promote social inclusion and engagement.

This is why the Andrews Labor Government provided \$44.7 million in operational funding in the current financial year to public libraries for books, IT, programs and services.

We are also proud to help councils provide high quality facilities to meet their communities' changing needs through the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

Since taking office in 2014, our government has supported 58 library projects, 34 of which were in regional and rural areas.

These funding commitments have helped unlock funding from other sources, turning our \$18 million investment into library infrastructure projects into a total spend of \$154 million.

The range of funding sources highlights an important factor about our libraries, they are partnership between councils, their communities and the State Government. The State Government does not run libraries, they are the responsibility of councils and regional library corporations and the state provides funding assistance for both their operation and physical upkeep.

I remain committed to working with local government and our community to make our libraries stronger and thank you for taking the time to write to me about this matter.

Yours sincerely

Steve McGhie

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