

Office of State Librarian

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Mr Ken Diehm  
Chief Executive Officer  
Fraser Coast Regional Council  
PO Box 1943  
TORQUAY QLD 4655

Dear Mr Diehm *Ken*

This letter confirms State Library of Queensland's support for the construction of a new library for Fraser Coast Regional Council with funding from the Federal Government under the Hinkler Regional Deal.

Public Libraries are important community and cultural infrastructure that contribute to community resilience, inclusion, wellbeing and social mobility. As trusted places at the heart of regional communities, public libraries are places of welcome, offering collections, programs, and services for the broad community at every stage of their lives.

State Library has a formal partnership with Fraser Coast Regional Council, which includes annual funding and a range of services and programs governed through the Service Level Agreement for Public Library Services and the Service Level Agreement for the First 5 Forever Family Literacy Initiative.

Recent reporting from Fraser Coast highlights a range of library programs and activities for the whole community. Rattle and Rhyme, Under 5 Time sessions and the Fraser Coast Playtime Passport are delivered as part of the First 5 Forever early literacy program. These programs ignite children's curiosity with opportunities to explore and help build the best foundation for children's language and literacy development by sharing stories, rhymes, singing, talking and playing. Activity packs and resources encourage families to continue to connect and play at home. Digital literacy classes using Android tablets and apps with a focus on cognitive skills provide valuable basic skills for the broader community.

Council obligations under their Service Level Agreement with State Library requires that council libraries implement management and operational practices which align with, and are aimed at meeting or exceeding, the Queensland Public Library Standards and Guidelines.

The current library space at Pialba falls does not meet the Queensland public libraries population-based standards and guidelines for recommended floor space. This limits the events and activities being held within the library space, including the provision of programs and activities required to meet the needs of the Hervey Bay community. The new library

facility will address the current space limitations while considering the significant projected population increases over the next 15 years.

Areas of shelving within the current library do not meet standards and guidelines for library shelving with regards to accessibility for all the community. The new library facility provides the opportunity to make sure that collection items are reachable without excessive bending or stretching, and to provide suitable space for wheelchairs, mobility aids and prams to manoeuvre between aisles. This is important to ensure welcoming, safer and barrier-free access to library collections, particularly for older people and people with a disability.

State Library confirms its strong support for the building of Fraser Coast Regional Council's new library and administrative centre. The new library facility will not only provide a more contemporary environment and community hub, but will also ensure that the required floorspace and facilities are provided to appropriately meet the needs of the Hervey Bay community.

State Library confirms its strong support for the building of Fraser Coast Regional Council's new library and administrative centre. The new library facility will provide a more contemporary environment and community hub and ensure that Council continues to provide the community with access to free, high quality library programs and services, now and into the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Vicki McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vicki McDonald AM FALIA  
State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer

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