



MEDIA RELEASE

15 April 2021

FUNDING TO REFURBISH ALTONA MEADOWS LIBRARY

Altona Meadows' popular library will get a new look thanks to support from the Andrews Labor Government.

Member for Altona District Jill Hennessy has announced Hobsons Bay City Council will receive \$500,000 from the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

The funding will modernise and upgrade the library building to cater for the changing needs of a growing, diverse community and provide room to expand popular programs like story time for kids, classes and other community events.

The 16-year-old space will undergo an internal refurbishment/fit-out with a focus on responding to the changing needs and service requirements of the community, building in elements of flexibility and improved functionality from an operational perspective, considering environmentally sustainable practices and responsiveness to growth in technological advancements.

Since 2015 the Victorian Government has invested more than \$32.5 million into 95 Living Libraries projects, allowing a total investment of \$236.8 million for new libraries, upgrades to existing facilities and library vans.

The 2021 round of the program is the biggest in its history, part of a record \$56.9 million commitment to libraries from the 2020-2021 Victorian Budget.

Victoria is home to 276 permanent library branches, 31 mobile library services and 71 other library outlets, with more than 2.1 million library members registered in the state.

For more information on Living Libraries and this year's successful applications visit

www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants/living-libraries-infrastructure-program

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane

"The Living Libraries Infrastructure program makes a real difference for communities across the state, delivering high-quality facilities and ensuring that all Victorians have access to a public library."

"Investments like this help create local jobs and ongoing employment opportunities. The Victorian Government is investing in communities and local neighbourhoods because we understand the difference projects like these can make."

Quotes attributable to Member for Altona Jill Hennessy

"It's great to see the Victorian Government supporting Altona's popular libraries with this investment, making sure the Altona Meadows branch can meet the needs of its fast-growing community."

"Hobsons Bay libraries are a much-loved part of our community and they're about so much more than books. Through this project even more local people will be able to access all the great services Altona Meadows Library provides."