



AGENDA

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

MEMBERSHIP: Councillors J Black, L Butler, S Chowdhury, J Cowley, M Dickerson, R Ivey, K Richardson, A Ryan, P Toynton, P Wells and M Wright.

The meeting is scheduled to commence following the Extraordinary Council Meeting.

	Page
CCC25/42 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ID25/489)	
CCC25/43 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID25/490) In accordance with their Oath/Affirmation under the Act, and Council's Code of Conduct, Councillors must disclose the nature of any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which may arise during the meeting, and manage such interests accordingly.	
CCC25/44 REPORT OF THE MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MEETING 4 AUGUST 2025 (ID25/1624) The Committee had before it the report of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting held 4 August 2025.	3
CCC25/45 REPORT OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL - MEETING 7 AUGUST 2025 (ID25/1625) The Committee had before it the report of the Youth Council meeting held 7 August 2025.	8
CCC25/46 MACQUARIE REGIONAL LIBRARY OPERATIONAL REPORT JANUARY 2025 TO JUNE 2025 (ID25/1121) The Committee had before it the report dated 15 August 2025 from the Manager Macquarie Regional Library regarding Macquarie Regional Library Operational Report January 2025 to June 2025.	13

CONFIDENTIAL

**CCC25/47 PRESENTATION - UPDATE ON WIRADJURI TOURISM CENTRE
(ID25/1788)**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 9 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1993 the Chief Executive Officer is of the opinion that consideration of this item is likely to take place when the meeting is closed to the public for the following reason: information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it (Section 10A(2)(d)(i)).



DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Report of the Multicultural Advisory Committee - meeting 4 August 2025

AUTHOR: Governance Officer
REPORT DATE: 12 August 2025

The Council had before it the report of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting held 4 August 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting held on 4 August 2025, be noted.



REPORT MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 4 AUGUST 2025

PRESENT: Councillor S Chowdhury, the Director Community, Culture and Places, the Manager Community Services, L Brennan (Community Representative), S Cortes (Community Representative), M Khan (Community Representative), S Mainali (Community Representative), W Mian (Community Representative), S Rupasinghe (Community Representative), K Taleb (Community Representative) and J Webster (Community Representative).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor J Black, The Manager Recreation and Open Space, the Manager Growth Planning, the Events and Partnerships Coordinator, Regional Events, and the Administration Officer, Community Services.

In the absence of Councillor Wright, Councillor Chowdhury assumed the Chair of the meeting.

An acknowledgement of country was delivered by the Manager Community Services.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 4:04 PM.

MAC25/9 APOLOGIES (ID25/1407)

The Committee received apologies from Councillor M Wright, N Awais (Community Representative), G Ganguli (Community Representative) and N Karagiannis (Community Representative).

S Mainali attended the meeting via audio visual link.

MAC25/10 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID25/1408)

There were no conflicts of interest received.

MAC25/11 REPORT OF THE MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MEETING 1 MAY 2025 (ID25/1409)

The Committee had before it the report of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting held 1 May 2025.

OUTCOME

That the report of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting held on 1 May 2025, be

noted.

MAC25/12 BAPTIST CARE HOPESTREET - NEW COMMUNITY HUB IN WINGEWARRA STREET (ID25/1411)

The Committee was addressed by a representative from Baptist Care Hopestreet.

OUTCOME

That the address by Baptist Care Hopestreet be noted.

MAC25/13 DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY (ID25/1494)

The Committee was addressed by the Manager Growth Planning regarding the item.

OUTCOME

- 1. That the address by the Manager Growth Planning be noted.**
- 2. That a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community consultation meeting be held with at least one months notice be given, and to be held after 5:00pm**
- 3. That a flyer be developed to share with contacts.**

MAC25/14 MULTICULTURAL GARDEN AT ELIZABETH PARK (ID25/1410)

The Committee was addressed by the Manager Recreation and Open Space regarding this item.

OUTCOME

- 1. That the address by the Manager Recreation and Open Space be noted.**
- 2. That the Committee had no objections to the proposal and supports the concept plans as presented.**

MAC25/15 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN AND YOUTH ACTION PLAN (ID25/1417)

The Committee was addressed by the Director Community, Culture and Places regarding this item.

OUTCOME

That the address by the Director Community, Culture and Places be noted.

MAC25/16 DUBBO REGIONAL EVENTS STRATEGY (ID25/1419)

The Committee was addressed by the Events and Partnerships Coordinator, Regional Events regarding this item.

The committee was advised that the Dubbo Region Events Strategy is in draft form and will go up to the August Council Meeting prior to going on public exhibition.

The Events and Partnerships Coordinator, Regional Events also advised the meeting of the following:

Community Services Fund

Council is currently inviting applications for funding from events scheduled between November 2025 and May 2026. \$250 000 is currently available and applications close 30 August 2025. More information is provided at this link [Community Services Fund](#)

Support for your event

The Events Unit is your go-to for strategic advice relating to timing, selecting the most appropriate venue for your event, assistance with development of event management plans and help to promote your event. Contact Lana or Lucy on 6801 4000 or email: regionalevents@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Add your event to dubbo.com.au

Event organisers are invited to promote their event online at the following links:

[Events Calendar • Dubbo Region.](#)

[Submit Your Event • Dubbo Region](#)

OUTCOME

1. That the address by the Events and Partnerships Coordinator, Regional Events be noted.
2. That the Events and Partnerships Coordinator, Regional Events be invited to the next meeting to provide further information.

MAC25/17 COMMENCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTICULTURAL STRATEGY (ID25/1420)

The Committee will be addressed by the Director Community, Culture and Places regarding this item.

OUTCOME

That due to time restraints this item be discussed at the next meeting.

MAC25/18 CORRESPONDENCE, QUESTIONS ON NOTICE AND GENERAL BUSINESS (ID25/1421)

- Councillor Black advised the meeting that he has written to the Police Minister regarding the lack of a Multicultural Liaison Officer in Dubbo, and has received a response indicating that there is no change in their position.

OUTCOME

- 1. That the committee requested a representative from Dubbo Police be invited to address the appointment of a Multicultural Liaison Officer for the Dubbo Region.
- 2. That the next Multicultural Advisory Committee Meeting be held on 3 November 2025 at 4:00pm.

The meeting closed at 5:00pm.

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CHAIRPERSON



DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Report of the Youth Council - meeting 7 August 2025

AUTHOR: Governance Officer
REPORT DATE: 12 August 2025

The Council had before it the report of the Youth Council meeting held 7 August 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Youth Council meeting held on 7 August 2025, be noted.



REPORT YOUTH COUNCIL 7 AUGUST 2025

PRESENT: Councillors J Cowley, P Wells, the Aboriginal Liaison Officer, the Youth Development Officer, A Jones (Community Representative), A Forrester (Community Representative) and M Richardson (Community Representative).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

The Administration Officer Community Services.

Councillor Wells assumed the Chair of the meeting and passed the chair on to A Forrester.

An acknowledgement of country was delivered by Councillor Wells.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 4:03 PM.

YC25/53 APOLOGIES (ID25/1554)

Apologies were received from R Faber (Community Representative, B Fernando Fuller, (Community Representative), N Jadhav (Community Representative), and A Rai (Community Representative).

YC25/54 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID25/1553)

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

YC25/55 REPORT OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL - MEETING 1 JULY 2025 (ID25/1559)

The Committee had before it the report of the Youth Council meeting held 1 July 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Youth Council meeting held on 1 July 2025, be noted.

YC25/56 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (ID25/1555)

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

YC25/57 HOT TOPICS/ISSUES AND CONCERNS RAISED BY YOUTH (ID25/1556)

The following matters were raised:

- The Minokamo Student Exchange program concluded in Dubbo today.
 - The program was very successful
 - For a broader cultural experience it was suggested that the Youth Council and the Aboriginal Liaison Officer could be more involved in future programs.
 - A visit to the Royal Flying Doctors could be included in the program.
- Dubbo College's Bring it On performance was fantastic.
- Drama Club Dubbo, a youth drama group, is performing Hairspray at the DRTCC on 7 & 8 November 2025. More information at [Hairspray | Welcome to Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre](#).

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OUTCOME

1. That the matters discussed be noted.
2. That the Sister Cities Officer be advised of the suggestions put forward by the Youth Council for future Minokamo Exchange Student programs.

YC25/58 COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY UPDATES (ID25/1557)

The following updates were provided:

Youth Development Officer

- Oyster Tribe Aboriginal Corporation will be conducting a workshop on 27 September at the Dubbo Waratahs Rugby League Knock Out. More details will be provided when available.
- The Youth Hub website is currently being developed. Promotional content, including video clips featuring Youth Council members, is also being prepared.

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Aboriginal Liaison Officer

- Dinawan's Connection are having an event on Friday, 15 August 2025 at Sandy Beach and will have a youth focus.
- Wellington NAIDOC Events
 - NAIDOC Ball on 6 September 2025,
 - Flag Raising on 8 September 2025, and
 - Family Fun Day on 12 September 2025.

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OUTCOME

That the Council and Community events be noted.

YC25/59 YOUTH ACTION PLAN (ID25/1548)

The Youth Council was addressed by Youth Development Officer regarding the Youth Action Plan.

- The Youth Action Plan has been endorsed by Council, and the implementation of actions is underway. The Youth Development Officer continues to strengthen connections with external services.
- The Orana Youth Forum is scheduled for 26 August 2025 and there may be an opportunity for the Youth Council to host a table. Further details will be shared once available.
- The Youth Council has been invited to deliver a presentation at the Council Meeting on 23 September 2025, focusing on the recognition and celebration of youth innovation.
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OUTCOME

That the address by the Youth Development Officer be noted.

YC25/60 UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES (ID25/1547)

The following upcoming events and opportunities were noted:

- The Youth Development Officer shared details of the Todd Carney Reboot Mindset Academy event on 8 October 2025 at the Dubbo Regional Theatre. B Fernando Fuller will MC, and Youth Council members will assist with the Acknowledgement of Country and roving microphones.
 - A flyer has been finalised, and services have been invited to host information tables. The Youth Development Officer is sourcing funding to cover the event through the Office of Youth and the Youth Interagency have written letters of support for this application.
- From 15 September to 24 October 2025, the Youth Development Officer will act as Manager Community Services. Council is considering the engagement of a Diploma of Community Services TAFE student to fill the role temporarily. Other Community Services staff will also assist.
- On 18 September 2025, B Fernando Fuller will lead a NAIDOC event in Ballimore. Youth Council members are welcome to attend with those over 18 requiring a Working with Children Check.

OUTCOME

1. **That the upcoming events be noted.**
2. **That schools with student representatives on the Youth Council be contacted to request permission for students to attend Youth Council supported events during**

school hours.

YC25/61 BUSINESS AND NEW PROPOSALS (ID25/1552)

The following items were discussed:

- Youth Council Social Media Platform
 - An email from A Jones requesting a Youth Council social media account has been forwarded to Council's Communications team. The Youth Council agreed the platform should reflect a youth led approach, with Camden Youth Council's Instagram cited as a good example.
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- Youth Focused Music Festival
 - It was agreed that the Youth Council could play a big role collaborating in the planning of a youth music festival, ideally featuring a headline act supported by local bands. Rockhampton's Riverfest was noted as a good example. Funding opportunities would be explored.
- - It was also noted that Macquarie Conservatorium, Western Plains Cultural Centre, and Council are planning a joint event later this year.

OUTCOME

1. **That the business and new proposals be noted.**
2. **That the Communications Team be invited to present at the next Youth Council Meeting.**
3. **That the Youth Council seek involvement in the planning of any future youth focused music festivals.**

YC25/62 NEXT MEETING DETAILS AND CLOSE (ID25/1551)

The Youth Council gave consideration to future meeting dates.

OUTCOME

That the next meeting be held on 4 September 2025.

The meeting closed at 4:57pm.

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CHAIRPERSON



REPORT: Macquarie Regional Library Operational Report January 2025 to June 2025

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 15 August 2025
TRIM REFERENCE: ID25/1121

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	• Provide a six-monthly report on the regional library service performance and activities to Member Councils	
Issue	• Performance and Activity Review	
Reasoning	• Local Government Act 1993 • Library Act 1939 • Library Regulation 2018 • NSW Standards and Guidelines for NSW public libraries	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Community, Culture and Places – Library Services
	Funding Source	Dubbo Regional Council Warrumbungle Shire Council Narromine Shire Council NSW Government Subsidies and Grants Other Income (Fees and Charges)
	Actual Operating Income	\$3,671,204 (2024/2025)
	Actual Operating Expenditure	\$3,391,140 (2024/2025)
Policy Implications	Policy Title	Macquarie Regional Library Strategic Plan
	Impact on Policy	MRL Operational Plan 2024-2025
Consultation	MRL Regional Library Service	Member Councils Council Community Needs Survey Library Customer Survey MRL planning documents (publicly exhibited)

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Towards 2040 Community Strategic Plan is a vision for the development of the region out to the year 2040. The Plan includes four principal themes and a number of objectives and strategies. This report is aligned to:

Theme: 2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'

CSP Objective: 2.2 Everyone has access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities.

Delivery Program Strategy:	2.2.1 Ensure access to library services and facilities.
Theme:	2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'
CSP Objective:	2.2 Everyone has access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities.
Delivery Program Strategy:	2.2.2 Improve access to childcare, quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all ages.
Theme:	2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'
CSP Objective:	2.3 Our community enjoys diverse sports, recreation, and social activities.
Delivery Program Strategy:	2.3.3 Increase opportunities for entertainment, recreation, and cultural activities for all ages.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Macquarie Regional Library Six-monthly Performance Report, January 2025 to June 2025 be noted.

Craig Arms
Director Community, Culture and Places

KM
Manager Macquarie
Regional Library

BACKGROUND

This six-monthly report outlines the progress of Macquarie Regional Library (MRL) in delivering on the operational objectives outlined in the MRL Delivery and Operational Plan 2024–2028.

The priorities are aligned with the community strategic plans of MRL's member councils and reflect a shared commitment to accessible, inclusive, and high-quality library services across the region.

The report highlights performance across key indicators including financial management, membership trends, loan statistics, visitation figures, and regional service initiatives, providing a transparent overview of the library's achievements and areas for ongoing development.

REPORT

MRL 2024/2025 Financial Summary

The MRL original operating income budget for 2024/2025 was \$3,936,733, with actual income received totalling \$3,671,204. When excluding credit adjustments related to member councils' salary contributions, the adjusted actual income was \$3,972,608 — an increase of \$35,875. This positive variance was primarily due to higher-than-anticipated interest earnings.

The MRL 2024/2025 operating expenditure was originally budgeted at \$3,998,273, with actual expenditure totalling \$3,391,140 — resulting in savings of \$607,133. This includes:

- Salary savings of \$301,404 returned to member councils
- Additional savings of \$249,370, largely due to:
 - Reduced depreciation (\$56,947),
 - Professional industry memberships and subscriptions (\$46,203),
 - Deferred local special projects to 2025/2026 (\$17,804),
 - Equipment underspend (\$58,849), partially offset by \$19,314 transferred to capital expenditure.

Capital expenditure was budgeted at \$332,882, with actual spend at \$299,583, yielding savings of \$33,299. These savings were primarily due to:

- \$70,177 in collection development funds and

- \$43,000 in motor vehicle replacement funds being carried over to 2025/2026, offset by \$74,764 transferred from operational to capital expenditure.

In total, MRL achieved combined operational and capital savings of \$243,922 for the 2024/2025 financial year. This reflects total underspend of \$374,903, less \$130,981 allocated to projects carried forward into 2025/2026.

Key Initiatives

Macquarie Regional Library Community Survey

The 2025 Library User and Non-User Survey results provided valuable insight into community sentiment on library services. Conducted through the council's *Your Say* platform, pop-up locations and in-library surveys, the initiative gathered feedback from 355 respondents.

1) 2025 Library User and Non-User Survey revealed:

- 92.43% very satisfied or satisfied with MRL overall
- 97.88% very satisfied or satisfied with library staff
- 95.45% very satisfied or satisfied with local library locations
Insights will inform the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan and guide future service planning.

The feedback will help inform future planning and service development across the library network and provide input to the 2026-2030 Macquarie Regional Library Strategic Plan.

IT and Cyber Security Project

Ongoing integration of MRL IT infrastructure into Dubbo Regional Council's framework continued during January to June 2025, with project completion due December 2025.

Completed actions include:

- IT infrastructure and systems audit
- Replacement and integration of firewalls, switches, and wireless across 10 branches
- ASD8 cyber controls implemented
- Aligned remote access systems with Council standards

Fine Free February – Amnesty Initiative

- 687 members participated
- Encouraged return of long-overdue items

- Supported membership retention and positive service engagement

Updated Replacement Charges

- Introduced depreciated pricing model based on item age and condition
- Resulted in positive member feedback and increased payment rates

Early Literacy Story Kits Launch

- New resource for children aged 0–5 and their caregivers
- Includes books, tactile items, and guided learning activities
- 91 loans recorded since launch in March, showing strong uptake

Upcoming Events for Councillors

NSW Public Libraries Association Central West Zone Meeting will be held in Parkes on 19 September at the Parkes Library 10:00 am – 1:30 pm. All councils in the Central West Zone receive an invitation from the Central West Zone Libraries Secretary.

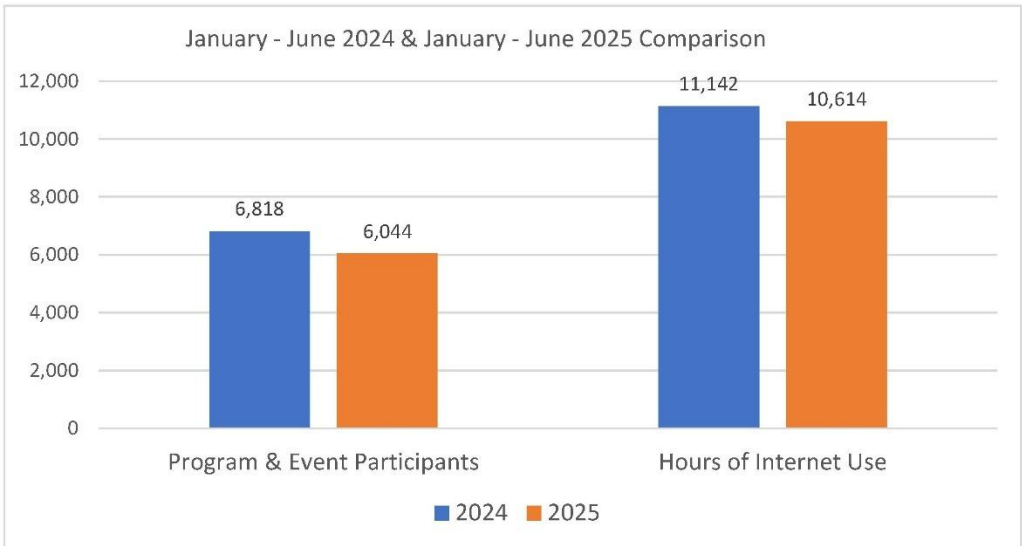
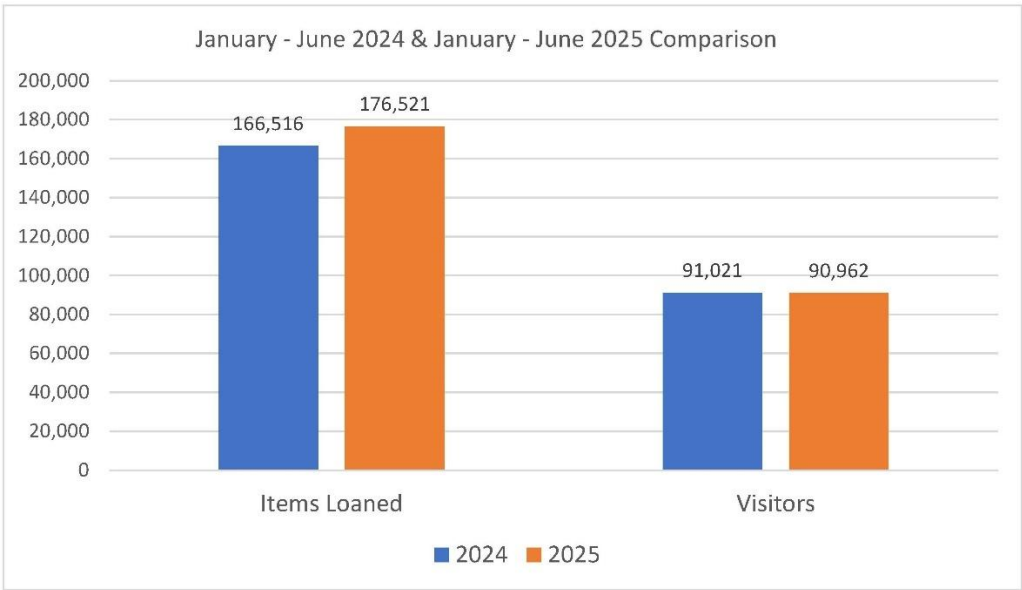
NSW Public Libraries Association (NSWPLA) Conference – November 2025

The 2025 Conference will be held 12 – 13 November 2025 at the Western Sydney Conference Centre, Penrith. The NSWPLA Annual General Meeting will be held on the morning of Friday 14 November. NSWPLA provide well-rounded conferences so that all delegates find something to their liking. Networking is a big part of the NSWPLA conferences. There is also the fun side of the conference, and this is the social program, including:

- Welcome Reception (11 November)
- Conference Dinner (12 November)
- Councillor Lunch (13 November) – Councillors only
- Farewell Dinner (13 November)

More information can be found at: <https://nswpla.org.au/switch2025/>

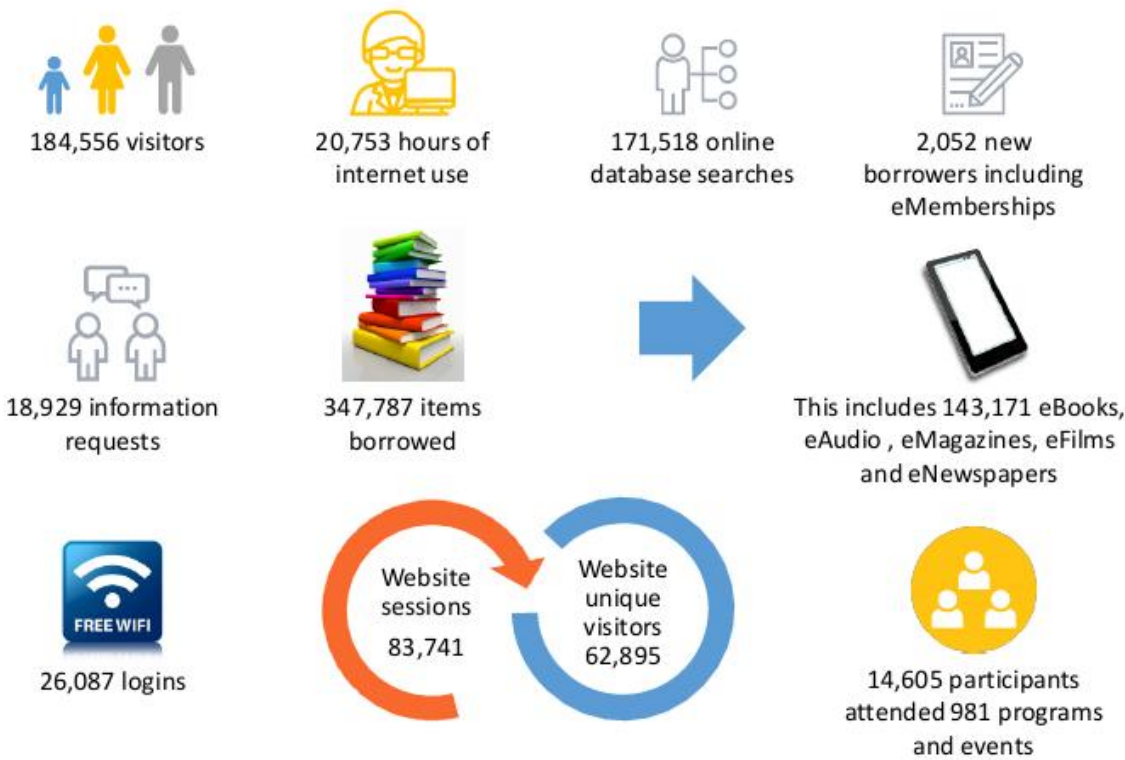
Macquarie Regional Library Statistical Comparison



Macquarie Regional Library Operational Plan – January 2025 to June 2025

Objective - Provide quality services to Macquarie Regional Library communities		
Key Measures of Success 95% of customers view their library as satisfactory - Percentage of registered users to the total population	- Visits to the library per capita - Number of transactions (loans and reference enquiries) - Operating expense per transaction (loans and reference enquiries)	
Legend:  Completed  On track  Delays  Not yet commenced  No progress		
Action	Date	Status
Strategy		
1.1 Governance procedures for provision of professional and effective services are appropriate		
1.1.1.1 Review the Regional Service delivery model to ensure that the most appropriate level of service is delivered	September 2024	
1.1.2.1 Produce an MRL Annual Report, including an audited statement of accounts	November 2024	
1.2 Financial resources for provision of professional and effective services are sufficient		
1.2.1.1 Submit draft budget to MRL member councils	March 2025	
1.2.1.2 Undertake quarterly budget review	Quarterly	
1.2.2.1 Review MRL Revenue Policy [Fees and Charges]	March 2025	
1.2.3.1 Seek grant and subsidy opportunities to obtain full benefits for the Library Service	Ongoing	
1.3 Evaluation and planning for strategically managed services		
1.3.1.2 Develop MRL Annual Operational Plan	March 2025	
1.3.1.3 Complete annual SLNSW Public Libraries Statistical Return	November 2024	
1.4 Customers have access to a full range of high-quality programs and services		
1.4.1.1 Review the opening hours of all branches/service points	June 2025	
1.4.1.2 Collate visitation and attendance at programs and events at each branch and service point	Monthly	
1.4.1.3 Review the provision of services, programs, collections, and technology, particularly for target and diversity groups	June 2025	
1.4.1.4 Undertake biennial community user and non-user survey	February 2025	
1.4.1.6 Compile quarterly reports on programs, services, collections, and technology	Quarterly	

MRL Loans, Membership and Visitation Statistics
July 2024 - June 2025



RESOURCES



265 posts
3,092 followers



94 posts
941 followers



252 posts
1,190 followers