

## 11.4 Review of Mudgee Library Opening Hours

REPORT BY THE MANAGER LIBRARY SERVICES  
TO 17 APRIL 2024 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400105, F0620008

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager Library Services on the Review of Mudgee Library Opening Hours;**
2. **note the submission received from the community during the exhibition period; and**
3. **endorse the following opening hours for the Mudgee Library to begin from 1 July 2024:**
  - **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00am – 5:30pm**
  - **Thursday: 9:00am – 7:30pm**
  - **Saturday: 9:30am – 1:30pm**

---

### Executive summary

This report seeks endorsement from Council to proceed with changing the opening hours of the Mudgee Library. The proposal: to open the library an hour earlier at 9.00am and close 30 minutes earlier at 5.30pm, with extended opening hours on Thursday evenings and Saturdays.

No changes are proposed to the smaller branch libraries in Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

### Detailed report

The State Library of New South Wales previously determined that the Mudgee Library branch is currently open for 43 hours per week, falling below the recommended 48 hours for a tier one (main) library.

During the recent strategic planning process, consultation with the community and staff, and audit of visitation statistics, the demand for modified opening hours was evident. This proposed change would better align the Library to be able to meet the needs of the community, as well as ensure the actions outlined in strategic and community plans are achievable. The change would also mean that total opening hours are amended to 48.5 hours a week, meeting the State Library recommendation.

Throughout the exhibition period, a single submission was received supporting the proposed change to operating hours:

*"I definitely think library hours should be extended, as they are we lag behind most other libraries of similar size in NSW regards"* - Raul Mazariegos  
There were no submissions against the change.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Looking After Our Community</b>
Goal	A safe and healthy community
Strategy	Maintain the provision of high quality, accessible community services that meet the needs of our community

## Strategic implications

### **Council Strategies**

Delivery Program 2022/23–2025/26  
Operational Plan 2023/24  
Community Plan – Towards 2040  
2023-2033 Cultural Plan  
2022 Community Engagement Strategy

### **Council Policies**

2023 Collection Development Policy

### **Legislation**

*Library Act 1939*

## Financial implications

The proposed changes can be accommodated without change to the overall existing library budget allocation.

## Associated Risks

Changes to agreed service levels require appropriate consultation with Council and the community. Risk to adverse community sentiment about the proposed changes can be mitigated by providing the opportunity for feedback from the public through placing the proposed changes on exhibition.

RACHEL GILL  
MANAGER LIBRARY SERVICES

SIMON JONES  
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

26 March 2024

*Attachments:* Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER