



SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Ref No: MS18-000720

Ms Jane Hemstrich
Deputy Chair
National Library of Australia Council
Parkes Place
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Ms ~~Hemstrich~~ *Jane*

National Library of Australia – Statement of Expectations

I am writing to you to outline my expectations for the National Library of Australia (NLA) for 2018-19. The portfolio allocation for the NLA in 2018-19 is \$65.071 million. This includes \$4.9 million from the Public Service Modernisation Fund for digitisation of material and upgrade of critical infrastructure for Trove and other priority activities; and \$2.728 million for public events and activities for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's voyage.

Let me first acknowledge the achievements of the Library in 2017-18, in particular the award-winning Digital Library Infrastructure Replacement Program, which will position the NLA as a digital leader in the collections sector for years to come, and the celebrations for the Library building's 50th birthday.

The Library and its Council should continue to foster a strong vision for the Library as well as develop clear and achievable objectives for its operations in 2018-19 and onwards. This will ensure that the NLA is well placed to continue to deliver against its vision to connect all Australians with national collections, enriching conversations about who we are and our place in the world.

I anticipate that during 2018-19 the NLA will continue to perform its core function of collecting documentary resources relating to Australia and the Australian people in aid of discovery, learning and creation of new knowledge. I would like to take this opportunity to outline some strategic priorities that I ask the Library to focus on in 2018-19. These are:

- Strengthen collections that better reflect Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, engage with the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages and contribute to the Government's diversity and inclusion objectives including Closing the Gap.
- Continue to develop Trove and other services.
- Continue to work cooperatively with my Department and other portfolio agencies on commemorations for the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's voyage to Australia.
- Provide leadership in the delivery of collection management, and quality education and public programs.

- Explore opportunities to increase own-source revenue and grow private sector support, including through partnerships with research communities to facilitate access to digital collections.
- Contribute data on the NLA's performance to national reporting and planning.
- Continue to identify and implement operational efficiencies in line with our expectation that all departments and agencies assist the Government in its effective management of the Budget.
- Contribute to the Government's cultural diplomacy outcomes within existing resources, with particular focus on Singapore, India, Indonesia and Germany.

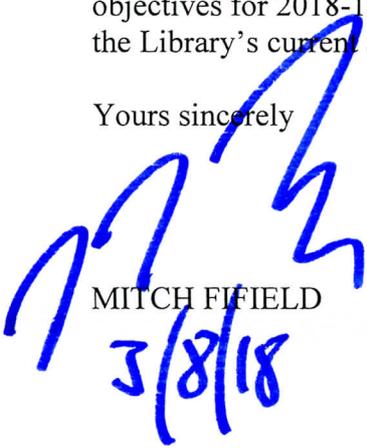
I note that many of these areas are already being actively progressed. In particular the recent generous gift by the Stokes family is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of the NLA team in highlighting the opportunities the collection presents to the nation. I also appreciate you alerting me to significant events related to NLA activities or functions.

I intend to schedule an annual meeting with the new Chair of the NLA, Dr Brett Mason, and the Director to discuss plans for the year. I suggest this could be held in advance of the next iteration of the NLA Corporate Plan. This would provide a formal opportunity to discuss the NLA's plans as well as Government priorities.

This Statement of Expectations and the NLA corresponding Statement of Intent form an important component of the NLA's governance framework. As such, I would anticipate both being public documents. I have written in similar terms to all arts portfolio agencies, and have copied this letter to the Director-General of the NLA, Dr Marie-Louise Ayres.

I wish you and the NLA Council and executive team success in meeting outcomes and objectives for 2018-19 and look forward to meeting with Dr Mason and Dr Ayres to discuss the Library's current and future work in these areas.

Yours sincerely



MITCH FIELD

3/8/18