
NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 11 JULY 2018
REPORTS TO COUNCIL – COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. FOWLER STEAM ENGINE (16163) UPDATE

Author	Director Community and Regulatory Services
Responsible Officer	Director Community and Economic Development
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 3.1.4 Ensure preservation and maintenance of the Shire's heritage buildings, objects and places of interest.

Executive Summary

Mr Tony Walsh of the New England Heritage Traction Club Inc. has provided Council with a further update of progress with the restoration of the Fowler Steam Engine which his Club has undertaken to restore on Council's behalf. The last update was reported to the November 2017 Council Meeting. There is a requirement in the legal agreement that regular updates be provided to Council.

Report

Mr Walsh advised they have not been able to remove the rear wheels as planned.

"As would expect it is a large undertaking removing the wheels and trying to have four of us at the same time and place has proved difficult over the last 6 months."

"However we have managed to remove the front axle assembly and as we expected wear on the wheel bushes included some severe wear on the axle ends. Obviously run without oil for some time. I have sent the axle to Engineering Unlimited for a quote to build up the axle ends and re-machine the existing bushes to suit. Also the front perch bracket and pin that hold the axle to the boiler is badly worn and will need to be dealt with. I have sent that along with the cylinder drain cocks and tender fittings to Hydracut for a quote to be repaired and remade."

Hopefully in early July we will be able to view Fowler 16161 at Lanyon Homestead which is just out of Canberra. It is owned by the Federal Government and is of the same configuration as the Narromine Fowler. It is hoped we can take photographs and measurements of it to work out the missing components of 16163. Attached are photos of the front end and worn components." **(See Attachment No. 1).**

Financial Implications

Council will fund the parts needed and the Club will provide all labour free of charge.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

A legal agreement was entered into with the New England Heritage Traction Club Inc. which clearly outlined the responsibilities of the Club and Council.

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1. FOWLER STEAM ENGINE (16163) UPDATE (Cont'd)

Risk Management Issues

There are no perceived risks at this stage.

Internal/External Consultation

The Heritage Traction Club intend to view Fowler 16161 in early July to assist them with the repairs to Council's Fowler Engine as mentioned in their update.

Attachments

Five photographs of parts of the front end and worn components of the Fowler Engine.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

2. STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Author	Director Community and Regulatory Services
Responsible Officer	Director Community and Economic Development
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 1.2.1 MRL act as a resource to meet local needs supporting all age groups. DP – 1.2.1.2 Continue to provide a Library Service in Narromine and Trangie which meets the needs of all age groups by providing resources and inclusion policies.

Executive Summary

The NSW Government has announced a decrease in the funding for public libraries. The NSW Public Libraries Association has requested support from councils across NSW in their advocacy to State Government for additional funds for Public Libraries.

Report

The NSW Public Libraries Association have requested support from councils in lobbying Government because of the decrease in funding for public libraries across the State.

Narromine Shire Council has invested significantly in library services over the past decade, spending on average \$40,500 pa in capital expenditure and around \$390,460 on average annually to provide the library service in Narromine and Trangie. Last year's operational budget was \$548,523.

2. STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES (Cont'd)

The NSW Public Libraries Association advise as follows –

“Whilst Council receives funds from State Government, these have gradually declined. In 2015/16, State funding for Public Libraries covered only 7.5% of the total costs of operating the 368 libraries across NSW. The level of State Government funding for NSW public libraries has reached crisis point. This is an historic issue that has been ignored by successive NSW governments. The key issues are that:

- NSW public libraries receive the lowest per-capita funding from their State Government compared to all other states in Australia. **(See Attachment No. 2)**
- NSW councils are currently paying 92.5% of the costs to operate public libraries, up from 77% in 1988.
- In 2015/16, NSW State Government funding for public libraries was only \$26.5m compared to a contribution of \$341.1m from Local Government. NSW councils are paying 12 times more than the State Government to provide library services to their communities.
- The total funding available through the NSW Public Library Funding Strategy is not indexed to population growth or consumer price index (CPI), thereby contributing to the ongoing attrition of State Government funding.
- The 2018/19 NSW State budget delivered just \$23.528m for public libraries, \$5.275m less than the 2017-18 funding level and a cut of 18 per cent.
- Physical and virtual visitation, library borrowing and participation in library programs continue to increase year on year.
- Libraries play a major part in supporting the achievement of government literacy targets.
- Libraries provide collections, programs and spaces for marginalised groups including older people, refugee and multicultural communities, and people who are digitally disadvantaged.”

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“In 2011, the NSW State Government made a pre-election commitment to comprehensively review the level and allocation of funding for NSW public libraries. The Library Council of NSW worked with the NSW Public Libraries Association and the State Library of NSW to develop an evidence-based submission.”

“The resulting submission *Reforming Public Library Funding*’, recommending a fairer, simpler and more transparent method for the distribution of funds, was presented to the State Government in October 2012. Despite the undertaking of the State Government to comprehensively review funding for its public libraries, the recommendations of *Reforming Public Library Funding* were ignored and the funding model was neither reviewed nor improved.”

“In 2016, the then Minister for the Arts, the Hon. Troy Grant, undertook to review the matter of State Government funding for NSW libraries at the conclusion of the Fit For the Future program. It can be reasonably assumed that Fit For the Future has concluded, yet there has been no review of library funding nor any mention of libraries

2. STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES (Cont'd)

in the Government's pre-election undertakings. At the 2016 LGNSW Conference, the Premier Mike Baird committed to reviewing library funding."

"It should be noted that the following motion (submitted by the Blue Mountains City Council) was unanimously endorsed at the Local Government NSW 2017 Conference:

"That Local Government NSW works with the NSW Public Libraries Association (NSWPLA) to develop a strategic partnership to:

- a) "Increase public awareness of the multiple roles that Local Government Public Libraries play in supporting the educational, social, cultural and economic outcomes in local communities.
- b) Advocate, in the lead up to the March 2019 State election, for improved State Government funding for Local Government Public Libraries in NSW to enable public libraries to meet the growing needs of our local communities.

(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font).

Wagga Wagga City Council – Funding for public libraries – That Local Government NSW and member councils lobby the NSW Government to increase annual percentage of funding for public libraries."

"As previously noted, this is not a party-political issue as every government since 1980 shares the blame for the current funding situation. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the NSW Opposition released its Library Funding Policy on 26 March 2018 with an undertaking to increase overall funding to all suburban and regional NSW public libraries by \$50 million in the first term of government. This is a very significant pledge in so far as it is the first policy from any political party in recent history that undertakes to provide a significant and specified increase in state funding for public libraries".

"NSW public libraries are governed by the Library Act 1939, a legislative instrument that was initially introduced to ensure the provision and ongoing sustainability of libraries through State Government and Local Government collaboration, and providing up to 50% of the funding required to establish and operate libraries. Since then local government has increasingly carried the funding burden with the situation deteriorating significantly since the 1980's. As a result, there are examples of attrition in library staffing, opening hours, collections, services and programs in a number of councils across the state."

"Disappointingly, the 2018-19 NSW state budget delivered just \$23.5m for public libraries, \$5.27m less than the 2017-18 funding level. The State Government has completely ignored the recommendation of its own expert panel, the Library Council of NSW which, in consultation with the State Library of NSW and the NSW Public Libraries Consultative Committee, recommended an increase in public library funding to \$30m in 2018-19. The public library grant funding component, which has been a budget inclusion for many years, has been scrapped entirely. This component financed a competitive grant project which has part-funded countless library infrastructure and service projects over many years".

2. STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES (Cont'd)

“The NSW public library network is at serious risk. Neither this Council nor the broader NSW Local Government sector can continue with the high degree of uncertainty about the level of ongoing State Government funding for public libraries.”

“Accordingly, it is recommended that Council supports urgent action from the NSW local government sector and NSW Public Libraries Association to reverse the ongoing deterioration of state funding for public libraries to ensure that local councils will not be forced to continue meeting the funding shortfall.”

Financial Implications

The financial implications of the State Government continuing to decrease the amount of funding available to NSW Councils will mean councils will have to fund the shortfall in the future.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Library Act 1939
Macquarie Regional Library Service Agreement 2018

Risk Management Issues

There are no identified risk management issues.

Internal/External Consultation

The Public Libraries Association of NSW have contacted all NSW Councils requesting they provide support in lobbying the State Government for increased funding for public libraries.

Attachments

Analysis of Funding of Public Libraries of State and Territory Governments in Australia.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council make representation to the local State Member Troy Grant, in relation to the need for additional funding from the NSW State Government for the provision of public library services.
2. That Council write to the Hon. Don Harwin, Minister for the Arts and the Hon. Walt Secord, Shadow Minister for the Arts, calling for bi-partisan support for the provision of a significant increase in state funding for NSW public libraries, supported by a sustainable future funding model.
3. That Council take a leading role in lobbying for increased and sustainable state government funding for libraries.

3. STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES (Cont'd)

4. That Council endorse the distribution of the NSW Public Libraries Association NSW library funding advocacy information in Council libraries, as well as involvement in any actions proposed by the Association.

Phil Johnston
Director Community and Economic Development

Attachment No 1

Axle End



Attachment No 1

Ready to Drop



Attachment No 1

Stand

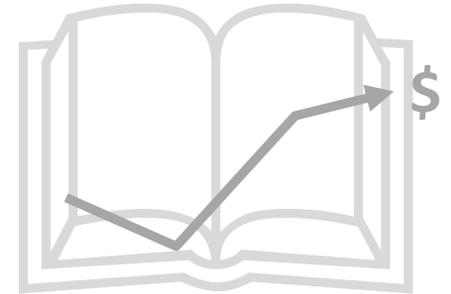


Attachment No 1

Swivel Pin





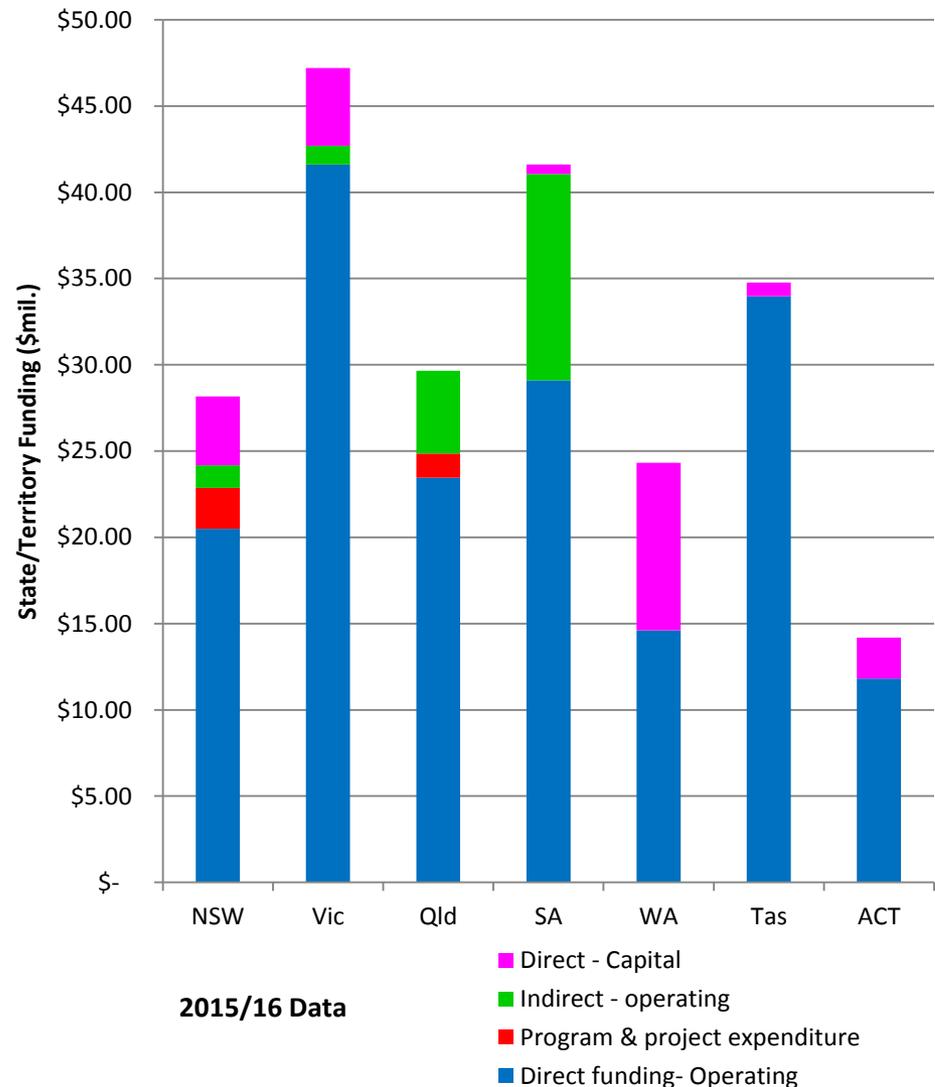


Analysis of Funding of Public Libraries by State and Territory Governments in Australia

Total Funding (by type) by States/Territories

- Chart 1 shows the amount of funding provided by State/territory governments for public libraries (excluding State libraries) in 2015/16. This excludes funding by local governments.
- It excludes general funding for State Libraries, but includes program expenditure by State Libraries that is specifically for public library (ie; non-State Library) projects and programs.
- Includes all types of funding (direct and indirect) including operational grants, capital and funds tied to specific public libraries projects/purposes.
- The Victorian Government provided more funding for public libraries (in absolute terms) than any other State/territory in 2015/16.
- NB: In ACT and Tasmania, public libraries are totally State/territory funded. NT is excluded from this analysis due to significant differences in service structure and demographic profile.

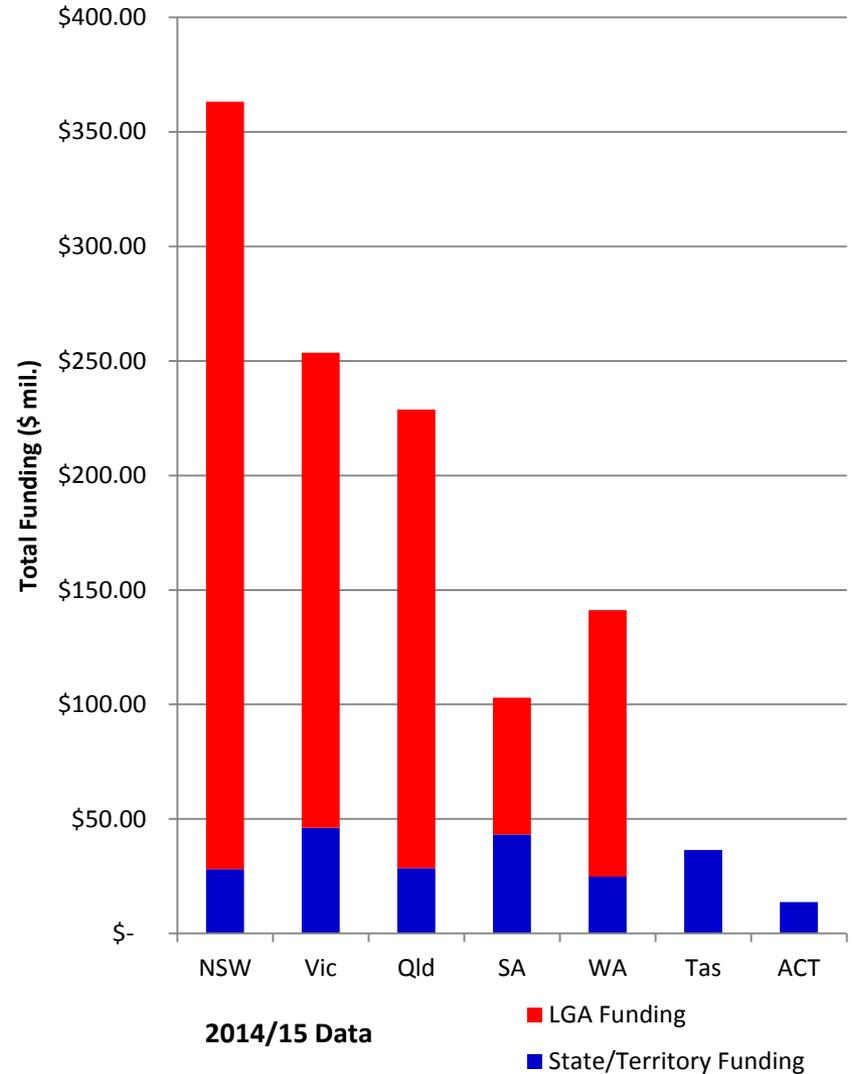
1. Total Public Library Funding by State/Territory Governments



Total Funding by States/Territories & Local Government

- Chart 2 shows the **total** amount of funding for public libraries from all sources (including State/territory governments and local governments) in 2014/15.
- It excludes general funding for State Libraries, but includes program expenditure by State Libraries that is specifically for public library (ie; non-State Library) projects and programs.
- Public libraries in NSW (Australia's most populous State) receive the highest absolute level of funding, followed by Victoria and Queensland.
- The Victorian Government contribution to total public library funding is significantly higher than that of NSW in proportionate and absolute terms.
- The State Government of SA contributes the highest proportionate share of total public library funding (with the exception of Tas and the ACT which, as noted, are 100% State/territory funded).

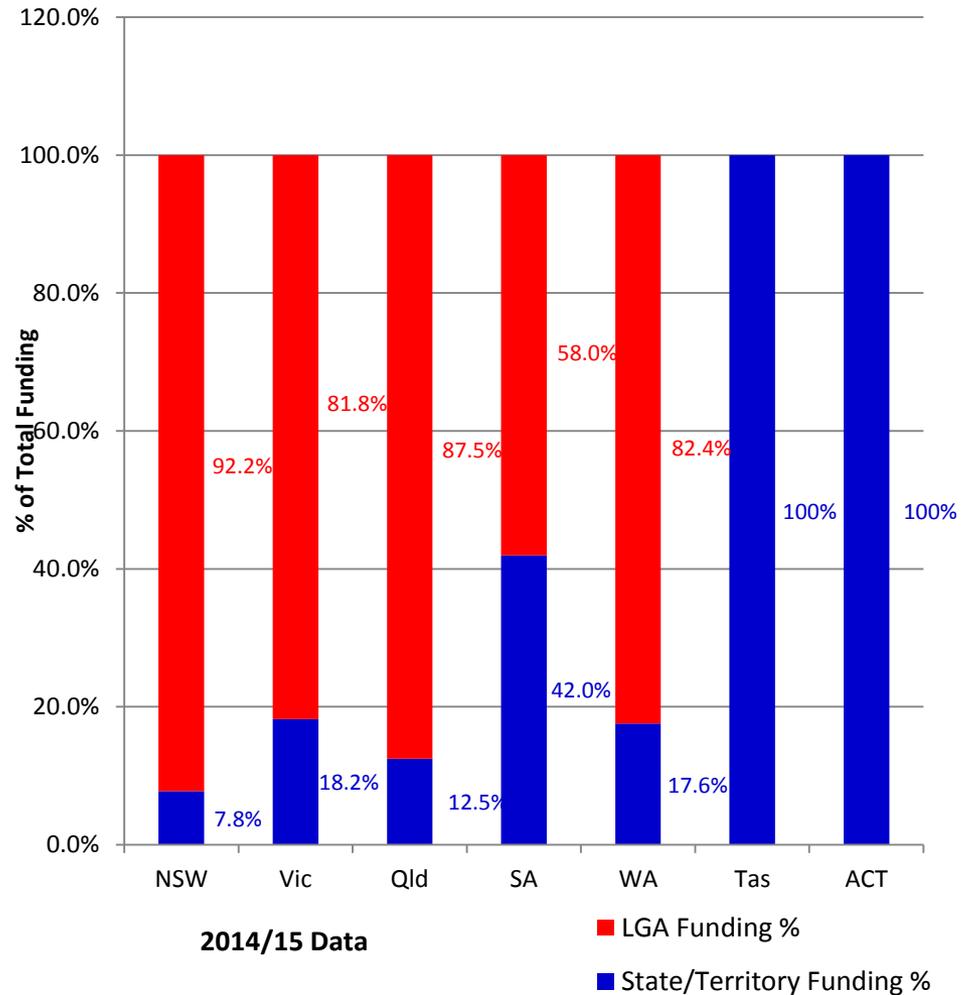
2. Total Public Library Funding by State/Territory & Local Governments



Library Funding (% of total by source)

- Chart 3 shows the **proportionate (%) contribution** to funding for public libraries by State/territory governments and local governments in 2014/15.
- As noted, public libraries in Tasmania and the ACT are 100% State/territory funded.
- The State Government of SA contributes the highest proportionate share of total public library funding at 42% of total funding.
- The Victorian Government contribution to total public library funding is 18.2% of total funds.

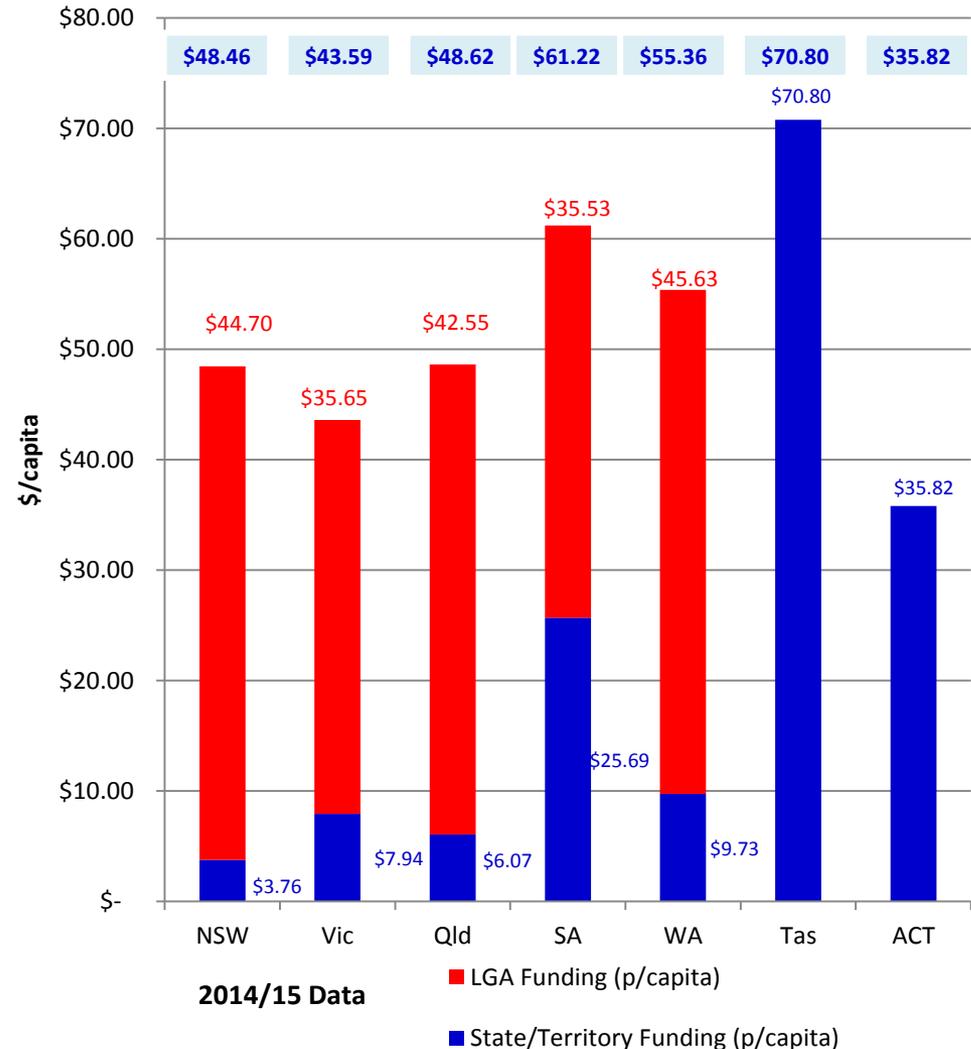
3. Public Library Funding by State/Territory & Local Governments (% of Total)



Total Funding by States/Territories & Local Government (per capita)

- Chart 4 shows **\$ per capita funding** of public libraries by State/territory governments and local governments in 2014/15.
- The highest per capita funding for public libraries in Australia (excl. NT) is Tasmania at **\$70.80**. (NB: Tasmania has a relatively low population base and is 100% State/territory funded).
- Of the five most populous states (where public library funding is shared between the State and local governments), the highest level of per capita funding is SA at **\$61.22** with WA at **\$55.36**. (NB: These States also have relatively low population bases compared to Victoria and NSW in particular).
- Per capita public library funding in NSW is **\$48.46** with a relatively low State Government contribution of **\$3.76** per capita (NB: NSW has the highest population base).
- Per capita public library funding in Victoria is lower at **\$43.59** overall but with higher State Government contribution of **\$7.94** per capita.

4. Total Public Library Funding by State/Territory & Local Governments (Per Capita)



Trend in Total Funding by States/Territories

- Chart 5 shows a three year trend for funding of public libraries by State/territory government.
- It excludes funding by local governments.
- It shows that the level of funding for public libraries by the Victorian Government has increased in each year of the analysis period from 2014/15 to 2016/17.

NOTES:

1. Most data for this analysis is drawn from State/territory budget documents and other publicly available data and reports.
2. Data on indirect State/territory funding of public library projects/initiatives through State libraries and/or (inner budget) State Government departments provided by the States/public libraries themselves. Whilst the author has sought to ensure consistency and comparability, the accuracy of this data (or the basis of its calculation) cannot be warranted or verified.
3. Some data used for this analysis is drawn from the Australian Public Libraries Statistical Report (2014/15) published in December 2016. In some cases, data
4. All population data is based on ABS data.

5. Trend in Total Public Library Funding by State/Territory Governments

