

24hr Library Services Pilot

Presented by Angela McDonald, Manager Community Programs

Community Experience

23 June 2025

Background

- At the March 2025 Annual Electors Meeting, a motion was passed requesting the City explore a pilot for 24/7 library access.
- The proposal referenced successful models such as Forestville Library (NSW), which implemented secure, unstaffed access with positive community feedback.

Summary of Sites Considered

- Karratha Library
- Dampier Library
- Wickham Library
- Karratha Leisureplex Office Suites (Study Space)

Karratha Library

- Option 1 (Unstaffed, 24/7 access)
 - Ruled out due to existing liquor licence restrictions with REAP and locked amenity access
- Option 2 (Staffed 24/7)
 - Access to all library services, facilities and resources including staff support for members and visitors
 - Estimated annual staffing cost of \$863,000 in addition to existing budget



Dampier Library

- Option 3 (Unstaffed, 24/7 Access)
 - Member only access to loans, renewals, WiFi, public computers and study spaces
 - Requires upgrades including CCTV, access control, additional security gates, duress alarms, fire system modification and printing payment kiosk
 - Approximate set up cost \$210,000



Wickham Library

- Option 4 (Unstaffed, 24/7 Access)
 - Member only access to loans, renewals, returns, WiFi, public computers and study spaces
 - Requires upgrades including CCTV, access control, additional security gates, duress alarms, fire system modification and printing payment kiosk
 - Approximate set up cost \$65,000



KLP Office Suites

- Option 5 (Karratha Leisureplex Office Suites – Study Space)
 - A Study Space only option was considered at the Karratha Leisureplex
 - Ruled out due to shared access with existing tenants and CCTV limitations

Alternative Options

- Option 6 (Alternative Lending/Reservation Options)
 - External Locker System: Allows collection of holds, returns and renewals. \$24,500 plus ongoing \$2,000 annual software and maintenance fee
 - Any Time Library Unit: Allows loaning of curated items within the unit, plus collection of holds, returns and renewals. \$107,000 plus ongoing \$9,000 annual software and maintenance fee
 - Will be considered as a project for 2026/27 budget for the Red Earth Arts Precinct



Conclusion

- Option 4: Wickham Library 24/7 presents the most feasible and cost-effective location for this trial due to its existing infrastructure and manageable upgrade requirements
- A pilot program will provide a valuable opportunity to test extended access, assess community response and refine the model

For more information:

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