

**MM14/25 PROGRESSING THE 24 HOUR LIBRARY TRIAL - Mayor
Trenton Brown****File Number:** CLM/25/1/1/8 - BP25/430

At its meeting on 22 October 2024, Council resolved that the CEO provide a report on the logistics of conducting a trial of the City's first 24-hour library. This initiative reflects a key priority of the majority of newly elected Councillors – namely, to deliver Ryde's first 24-hour library as soon as practicable.

In March 2025, a Councillor workshop was held to discuss the outcomes of community consultation and identify the most suitable location for the trial. The consultation attracted 593 submissions in response to the question: *"Would you consider joining the 24/7 library for after-hours access?"* Of these, 86% expressed support.

Following a strong show of community support and a thorough operational assessment, Eastwood Library has been identified as the preferred site for the trial. Eastwood was selected due to its smaller scale, lower infrastructure upgrade costs, and alignment with the Eastwood Master Plan.

We recognise the value of 24/7 access during HSC trial periods, especially for students needing quiet spaces and access to essential resources. At the same time, Council remains open to community feedback to ensure the future operating model for the extended hours of libraries meets community needs.

I propose Council conduct a 24-hour access trial at Eastwood Library from **1 August 2025 to 30 November 2025**, supported by a security guard during after-hours periods. The estimated operational cost is \$180,000 for the four-month trial, based on 117.5 additional staff hours per week.

While West Ryde Library was also considered, Eastwood represents a more manageable and cost-effective entry point for this innovative service.

Council remains committed to progressing this initiative responsibly, acknowledging the operational challenges related to staffing, security, and WHS. To maintain momentum and diligence, I propose bringing forward the next Councillor workshop to Tuesday, 17 June 2025. This workshop will enable Councillors to:

- Receive an update on progress;
- Confirm preferred security and staffing options;
- Consider key WHS and risk factors;
- Review a report from NSW Police; and
- Discuss the proposed implementation timeline.

MM14/25 (continued)

I urge Councillors to support this is a bold and forward-thinking initiative to expand community access to learning and public space, and to deliver on our election commitments.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- (a) Bring forward the Councillor workshop on the 24/7 Library Trial to 17 June 2025.
- (b) Request staff to complete the necessary WHS and security assessments and prepare implementation options and a timeline.
- (c) Note that a further report will be provided to Council following the workshop to confirm the scope and commencement date of the trial.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

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Mayor