



**STATE LIBRARY  
VICTORIA**  
What's your story?

## MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 29 April 2015

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:30am**

### Victorian Government announces \$83.1 million State Library Victoria redevelopment

- State Library Victoria to refurbish historic Queen's Hall and transform Australia's oldest public library
- The Victorian Government has committed \$55.4 million over five years to the project
- The State Library to raise \$28 million in philanthropic contributions

In today's pre-budget announcement and delivering an election promise, Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley announced the Victorian Government will contribute \$55.4 million to State Library Victoria's \$83.1 million redevelopment project.

Scheduled to be completed over a five year period, the State Library Victoria redevelopment project will refurbish and renew the historic Queen's Hall (including a new rooftop garden terrace) and create new centres for digital media, entrepreneurship and an e-Town Hall initiative to connect regional public libraries throughout Victoria.

The redevelopment will also reopen the public entrance to State Library Victoria on Russell Street and create new exhibition spaces, new education and learning facilities for families, children and young people.

The Library Board of Victoria is proposing to secure the additional \$28 million required for the redevelopment project, which will be announced once the funds are secured.

President of the Library Board of Victoria Mr John Wylie said, "We are very grateful for the Victorian Government's significant contribution to the redevelopment."

"We want to ensure the State Library evolves to continue to meet the ever-changing needs of the community now and in the future. This is not just a project for Melbourne – it's a major transformation that will benefit all of Victoria," Mr Wylie said.

Since 1856, State Library Victoria has been a place for learning, a place for connection and a place for inspiration for many generations.

Today, State Library Victoria is Australia's busiest public library, with almost 1.8 million visitors each year and a further 3.3 million people connect online.

This redevelopment project will create inspiring learning opportunities for families and visitors, and support the library to connect with more people across the state and the globe. It will build a better library for today and create a legacy of facilities and programs that can cope with the requirements of tomorrow and beyond.

Acting CEO and State Librarian, Ms Justine Hyde, noted that access to information is a key part of the library's mission and strategy, "This redevelopment is all about the library's next phase – it will reach more Victorians to enable them to benefit from the resources, expertise, facilities and digital experiences that the library can provide."

"The transformation will greatly expand the library's offering making it useful and inspirational in new ways and to more people," Ms Hyde said.

#### Media inquiries

Matthew van Hasselt | State Library Victoria | [mvanhasselt@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:mvanhasselt@slv.vic.gov.au) | 0410 518 202  
Ben Starick | Starling Communications | [ben@starling.com.au](mailto:ben@starling.com.au) | 0411 029 393

**CREATIVE  
VICTORIA**





## MEDIA RELEASE

Key features of the \$83.1 million State Library Victoria redevelopment will include:

### Project 1: Queen's Hall

- Restoring and reconstructing the iconic Victorian heritage **Queen's Hall**
- Developing a new **rooftop garden terrace**
- Reintroducing public space for library and reception uses

### Project 2: Russell Street entrance

- Restoring and reopening the dilapidated Russell Street entrance
- Introducing a **major exhibition space**
- Introducing associated ancillary spaces including retail, café and visitor services.

### Project 3: Ground floor activation

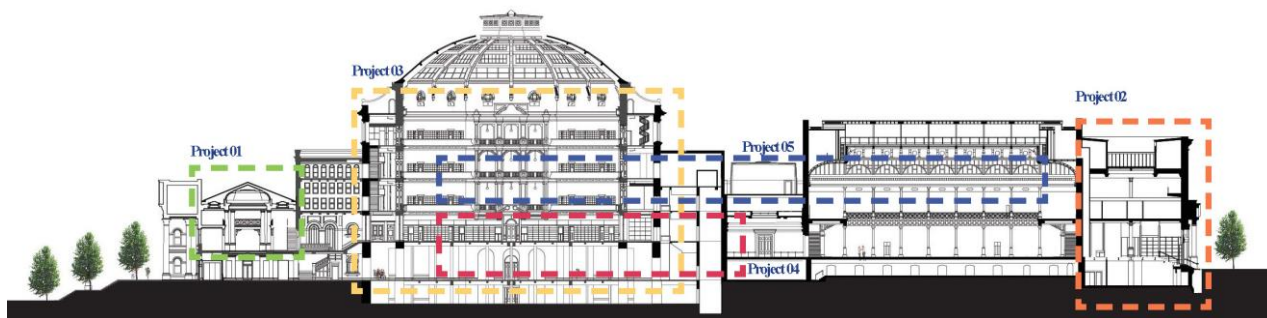
- Introducing an **innovation centre** incorporating a **centre for entrepreneurship, centre for digital media** and an **e-Town hall** initiative (pioneering emerging high definition, multi-venue communication technologies and providing portable access to regional centres and libraries).
- Introducing **new spaces for children and young learners**
- A new **Treasures of the SLV** gallery
- Reprogramming the **Dome Annulus galleries** for public collection access and a VIP lounge
- Adapting the north-west courtyard for cafe use
- Improving the Foundation members' facilities

### Project 4: Conference facilities

- Redeveloping and improving theatre and conference facilities to provide a 21st century video conferencing capability for public lectures and debates with improved connectivity to the library.

### Project 5: Staff offices and facilities

- Relocating and upgrading staff office areas
- Replanning staff areas to provide areas for new public programs.



Artist's impressions, still images and videos available upon request.

### Media inquiries

Matthew van Hasselt | State Library Victoria | [mvanhasselt@sv.vic.gov.au](mailto:mvanhasselt@sv.vic.gov.au) | 0410 518 202  
Ben Starick | Starling Communications | [ben@starling.com.au](mailto:ben@starling.com.au) | 0411 029 393