



Greg Piper, MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



Media Release

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GREG PIPER ACCEPTS PETITION ON LIBRARY FUNDING

State funding for public libraries has decreased significantly over the past twenty-five years and libraries across the state have joined together in a call for an increase. With Council's support, the Lake Macquarie City Library ran a petition which collected 3,721 signatures.

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, today accepted the petition from Narelle Reichert, Council's Manager of Library, Leisure and Recreational Services.

Greg will lodge the petition when Parliament resumes in late February.

"Libraries are a valuable resource for many people throughout the community," Mr Piper said. "The NSW Government should maintain funding at a level which ensures the viability of libraries and doesn't leave the responsibility with Councils."

"Libraries deliver a broad range of relevant services including internet access, study facilities, meeting rooms and the mobile library. The costs of these services should be fairly shared."

According to information provided by the Lake Macquarie City Library, a succession of funding cuts has made the NSW Government the lowest *per capita* contributor of all states and territories in Australia.

The petition, which was begun as part of last November's statewide "Day of Action" against funding cuts, will be a vital part of the message that councils want the NSW Government to play its part in helping libraries continue to serve the people of NSW.