CONNECTED LIBRARIES

Ignite your imagination

Budget
2026-2027

Updated: 22 April 2026
Endorsed: 22 April 2026
Adopted: 24 June 2026

Contents

Our Vision

Inspiring spaces where everyone is free to discover possibilities.

Our Mission

To encourage lifelong learning, increase literacy and build strong, resilient communities across the Casey region.

Our Values and Guiding Behaviours

Connection

- We create spaces where people feel that they belong.
- We find ways to share our common humanity, interests and passions.
- We strive to be fully present and intentional in our interactions with others.

Creativity

- We love learning and trying new things.
- We challenge the status quo if we believe a better way is possible.
- We support different ideas and allow others to give things a go.

Enrichment

- We look for ways to empower others to learn and participate.
- We strive to provide experiences that enhance the quality of a person's day and life.
- We provide opportunities for people to explore what is possible.

Humour

- Humour helps us to connect with each other.
- We like to laugh, bringing smiles to other people.
- We use humour to break down barriers and create a positive experience for everyone.

Kindness

- We are mindful of people's feelings.
- We are kind and compassionate and look for the best in others.
- We are accountable for our own behaviour and appreciate the differences in others.

Teamwork

- When we all contribute we excel.
- We play to each other's strengths.
- We can achieve our goals together.

Our Approach

- We put people first
- Pay it forward
- Follow up and reciprocate good deeds
- Help each other grow
- Share our stories and learn from each other
- Share ideas freely
- Quick little steps
- Give new things a go
- Momentum not perfection
- Encourage each other to take calculated risks
- Build confidence and resilience by working to our strengths
- Encourage authentic and courageous conversations
- Embrace the opportunity to learn when, things don't go as planned
- Acknowledge our partners
- Celebrate success

1.0 Executive Summary

The 2026–2027 Draft Budget has been developed to align with the priorities of the Library Plan 2025–2029 and remains consistent with the longer-term Strategic Resource Plan (SRP). It maintains current service delivery across Connected Libraries' seven branches, Library Lockers, and Outreach Van.

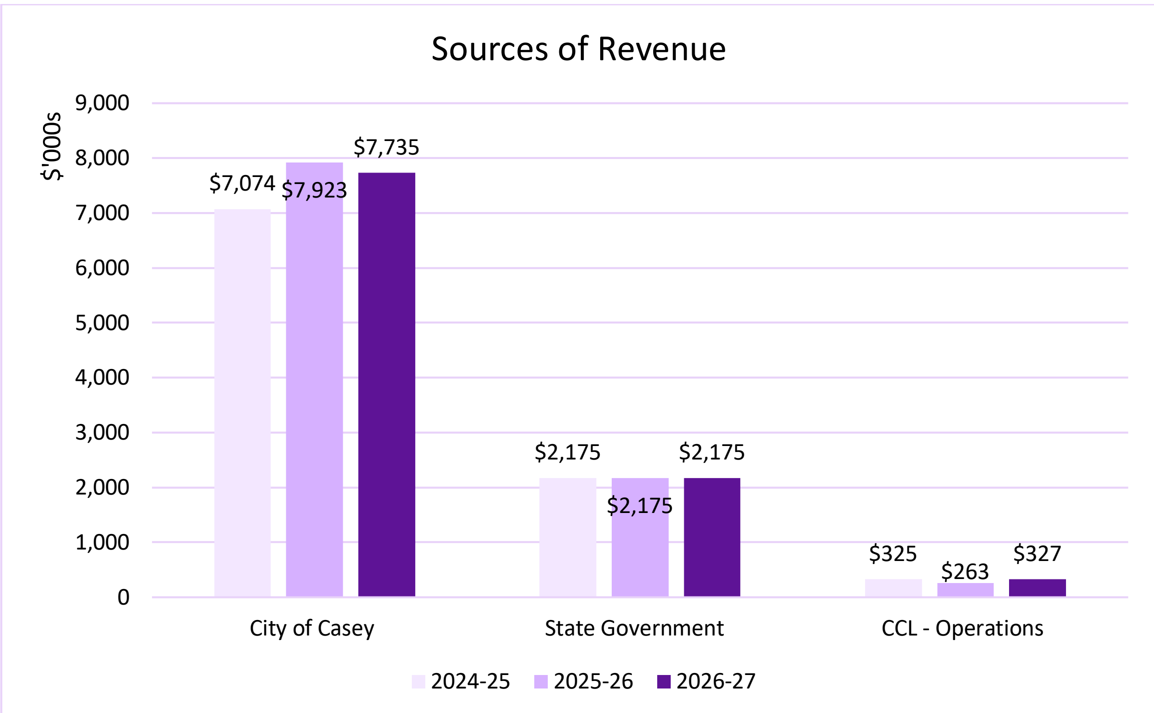
Consistent with the SRP, the Revised Budget does not include provision for further new service delivery points or major capital works. While Connected Libraries continues to explore opportunities for improved access and infrastructure—as identified in the Draft Facilities Development Plan 2023–2027 (updated February 2026)—any additional projects remain subject to future scoping and business case development.

Connected Libraries is primarily funded by the City of Casey and the State Government. While contributions from the State have remained steady, no indexation has been applied for the past three years. This presents financial challenges over the medium term; however, the organisation remains in a stable position and continues to actively manage resources to support service continuity and innovation, with reserves available to draw upon if required.

The Draft Budget reflects sound financial management principles, providing a clear and sustainable framework for the year ahead.

Sources of Revenue

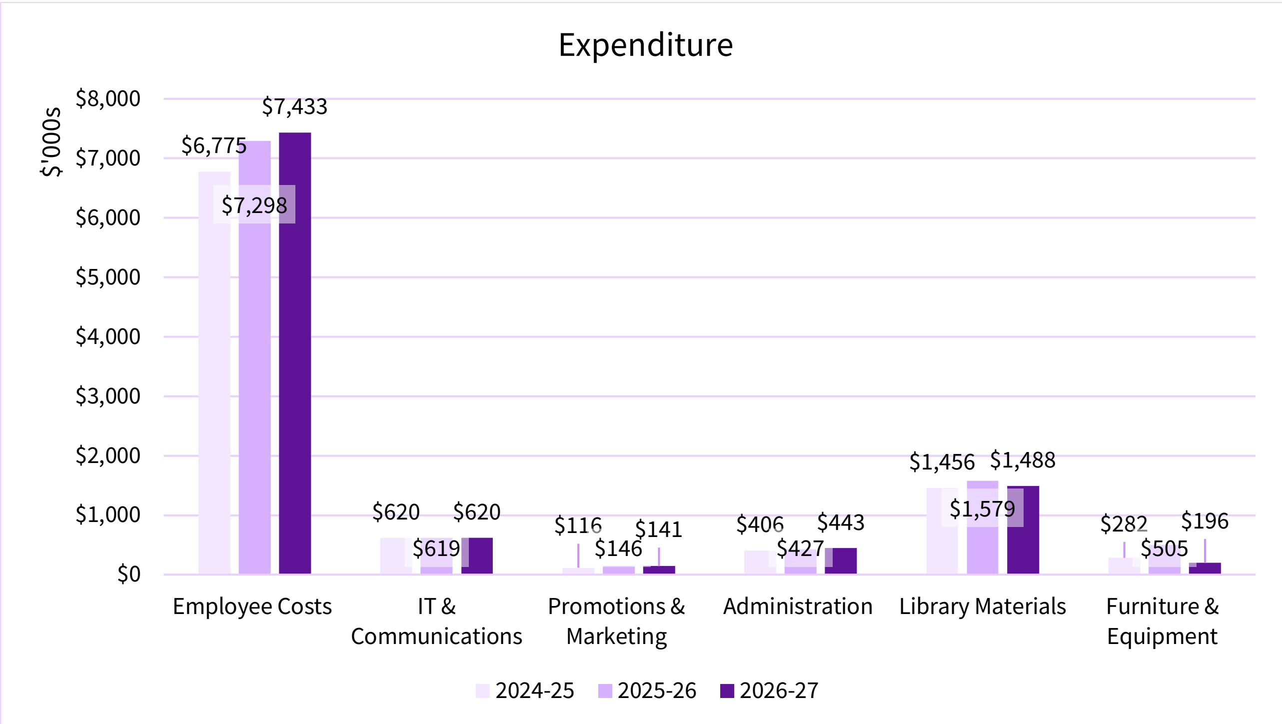
	Actuals 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
City of Casey	7,073,833	7,922,934	**7,734,747**
	73.88%	76.47%	**75.56%**
State Government	2,175,404	2,175,404	**2,175,404**
	22.72%	21.00%	**21.25%**
CL - Operations	325,032	263,058	**327,080**
	3.39%	2.54%	**3.20%**
Total Income	**9,574,269**	**10,361,396**	**10,237,231**



Allocation of Resources

	Actuals 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Employee Costs	6,774,801	7,297,500	**7,432,810**
IT & Communications	620,283	619,475	**620,310**
Promotions & Marketing	115,956	145,500	**141,480**
Administration	406,057	427,200	**442,500**
Other Expenses	374,057	395,200	**410,500**
Auditor Remuneration	32,000	32,000	**32,000**
Library Materials	1,456,263	1,578,500	**1,488,100**
Library Materials - Expense	367,270	367,000	**367,000**
Library Materials - Capital	1,088,994	1,211,500	**1,121,100**
Furniture & Equipment	282,068	505,065	**195,500**
Total Expenditure	**9,655,428**	**10,573,240**	**10,320,700**

This table presents Connected Libraries' planned allocation of available resources, including prior year actuals, the current year budget, and the budget for 2026-27. It differs from the Expenditure figures shown in the Comprehensive Income Statement, as it excludes depreciation—which reflects the accounting treatment of past capital investment—and instead includes budgeted capital expenditure to capture planned future investment. This table is intended to give a more practical view of how resources are expected to be allocated across operations and projects over time.



CONNECTED LIBRARIES

2.0 Budgeted Financial Statements 2026–2027

Comprehensive Income Statement For the Years ending June 30	**2024-25 Actuals**	**2025-26 Budget**	**2026-27 Budget**
	$	$	$
Income			
Contributions - City of Casey	7,073,833	7,922,934	7,734,747
Recurrent	*7,073,833*	*7,527,734*	*7,734,747*
Bunjil Furniture Renewal	-	*80,000*	-
Clyde Township Library Lounge	-	*315,200*	-
Funding from other levels of government	2,175,404	2,175,404	2,237,379
Federal funded grants - non-recurrent	-	-	*56,975*
State funded grants - recurrent	*2,175,404*	*2,175,404*	*2,175,404*
State funded grants - non-recurrent	-	-	*5,000*
Other income	325,032	263,058	265,105
Printing & Photocopying	*64,202*	*55,302*	*60,825*
Interest on Investments	*195,858*	*130,000*	*146,250*
Sundry Recoverable	*28,604*	*51,480*	*30,575*
Programs, meeting rooms & other charges	*36,367*	*26,276*	*27,455*
Net gain on disposal of assets	(457)	-	-
Total income	**9,573,812**	**10,361,396**	**10,237,231**
Expenses			
Employee costs	6,774,801	7,297,500	7,432,810
Training & Development	*148,707*	*146,800*	*148,825*
Salaries, Super & Leave Entitlements	*6,581,592*	*7,062,400*	*7,220,020*
Workcover, OHS & Travel	*44,502*	*88,300*	*63,965*
Materials and services	1,103,508	1,131,975	1,128,790
IT & Communications	*620,283*	*619,475*	*620,310*
Library materials	*367,270*	*367,000*	*367,000*
Marketing and library programs	*115,956*	*145,500*	*141,480*
Depreciation and amortisation	1,152,606	1,272,100	1,307,085
Other expenses	406,057	427,200	442,500
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO	*32,000*	*32,000*	*32,000*
Freight - daily branch collection transfers	*86,353*	*95,200*	*97,295*
Photocopying, Printing & Stationary	*49,694*	*48,200*	*49,550*
Others	*238,010*	*251,800*	*263,655*
Net loss on disposal of equipment	-	-	-
Total expenses	**9,436,972**	**10,128,775**	**10,311,185**
Total comprehensive result	**136,839**	**232,621**	**(73,954)**

Balance Sheet As at June 30	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Budget (Revised)	2026-27 Budget
Assets	$	$	$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	*1,282,959*	*571,115*	*487,646*
Trade and other receivables	*31,435*	*60,000*	*60,000*
Other financial assets	*2,000,000*	*2,500,000*	*2,500,000*
Prepayments	*98,902*	*100,000*	*100,000*
Total current assets	**3,413,296**	**3,231,115**	**3,147,646**
Non-current assets			
Plant, furniture, equipment and library materials	*3,991,096*	*4,435,561*	*4,445,076*
Right-of-use assets	-	-	-
Total non-current assets	**3,991,096**	**4,435,561**	**4,445,076**
Total assets	**7,404,392**	**7,666,676**	**7,592,722**
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	*567,946*	*455,786*	*415,504*
Unearned Income/Revenue	*171,538*	*175,000*	*175,000*
Provisions	*1,345,351*	*1,482,172*	*1,520,893*
Total current liabilities	**2,084,834**	**2,112,958**	**2,111,398**
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	*111,825*	*113,365*	*114,925*
Lease Liabilities	-	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	**111,825**	**113,365**	**114,925**
Total liabilities	**2,196,659**	**2,226,323**	**2,226,323**
Net assets	**5,207,733**	**5,440,353**	**5,366,399**
Equity			
Members contribution on formation	1,562,887	1,562,887	1,562,887
Accumulated surplus	3,644,846	3,877,466	3,803,512
Total Equity	**5,207,733**	**5,440,353**	**5,366,399**

Statement of Changes in Equity As at June 30			
	Total	Accumulated Surplus (deficit)	Member Contribution on Formation
2026			
Bal at the beginning of the financial year	5,207,733	3,644,846	1,562,887
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	232,621	232,621	0
Balance at end of financial year	**5,440,353**	**3,877,466**	**1,562,887**
2027			
Bal at the beginning of the financial year	5,440,353	3,877,466	1,562,887
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(73,954)	(73,954)	
Balance at end of financial year	**5,366,399**	**3,803,512**	**1,562,887**

Statement of Capital Works For the Years ending June 30	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget
	$	$	$
Books and materials	**1,088,994**	**1,211,500**	**1,121,100**
Existing collection renewal	*1,088,994*	*1,121,100*	*1,121,100*
Clyde Township Library Lounge	-	*90,400*	-
Furniture and equipment	**226,746**	**505,065**	**195,500**
Recurring furniture & equipment renewal	*191,425*	*195,500*	*195,500*
Clyde Township Library Lounge project	-	*203,800*	-
Bunjil furniture renewal project	-	*80,000*	-
Digital memory station project	*10,321*	-	-
Other funded equipment projects	*25,000*	*25,765*	-
Motor Vehicles	**55,322**	**-**	**-**
Total Capital Expenditure	**1,371,062**	**1,716,565**	**1,316,600**

Statement of Human Resources For the years ending June 30		
	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Staff Expenditure		
Employee costs - Operating	7,297,500	7,432,810
Total Staff Expenditure	**7,297,500**	**7,432,810**
	EFT	EFT
Staff - Equivalent Full Time	66.25	69
Staff Employed (Average)	**119**	**126**
Permanent full time	*29*	*36*
Permanent part time	*63*	*56*
Casual / Fixed Term Contract	*27*	*34*

CONNECTED LIBRARIES

Statement of Cash Flows Year ended June 30	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget
	$	$	$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Income from:			
Council Contributions	7,781,216	7,922,934	7,734,747
Government Grants	2,175,404	2,175,404	2,237,379
Interest Income	194,746	130,000	146,250
Printing & Photocopying	64,202	55,302	60,825
Other Income	88,041	77,756	58,030
	10,303,609	**10,361,396**	**10,237,231**
Payments for:			
Employee Costs	(6,601,362)	(7,110,679)	(7,242,525)
Library Materials	(403,996)	(367,000)	(367,000)
Computer Services	(682,311)	(619,475)	(620,310)
Other Costs	(1,104,778)	(759,521)	(774,265)
	(8,792,447)	**(8,856,675)**	**(9,004,100)**
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities	**1,511,162**	**1,504,721**	**1,233,131**
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Proceeds from sale of Plant & Equipment	1,182	0	0
Proceeds from matured investments	1,500,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Payments for new investments	(1,000,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,000,000)
Payment for Books, Furniture, Plant & Equipment	(1,371,062)	(1,716,565)	(1,316,600)
Net Cash (Outflow) from Investing Activities	**(869,880)**	**(2,216,565)**	**(1,316,600)**
Net Increase/Decrease in Cash	**641,282**	**(711,845)**	**(83,469)**
Cash at the beginning of the year	641,677	1,282,959	571,115
Cash Held at End of Year	**1,282,959**	**571,115**	**487,646**

CONNECTED LIBRARIES

3.0 Notes to the Budgeted Financial Statements 2026-2027

1 - Council Contributions

Council Contribution per Capita	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Population*	444,654	458,686
Councils Contribution	7,922,934	7,734,747
Average Contrib. per Capita	$17.82	$16.86
2025 Victorian LCs Average Contribution per capita**		$34.69

*Forecast population estimate source https://forecast.id.com.au
** Library Corporations include - Myli, Your Library, Geelong Regional Libraries, Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation and Yarra Plenty Regional Library.

2 - State Government Grants

The State Government establishes a funding agreement with each Library Corporation/Municipality. The current agreement expires June 30, 2026. The state funding is primarily calculated on population and in FY2026 there was a 0% increase in the amount received. For the 2026-27 Budget, it is assumed that 0% increase on State Government Funding will be received.

Recurrent State Funding per Capita	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Population *	444,654	458,686
State Funding	2,175,404	2,175,404
Average Contrib. per Capita **	$4.89	$4.74
2025 Victorian LCs Average Contribution per capita**		$6.48

*Forecast population estimate source https://forecast.id.com.au
** Library Corporations include - Myli, Your Library, Geelong Regional Libraries, Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation and Yarra Plenty Regional Library.

3 - Staff Resources

Employee costs includes salaries and wages, overtime, travel cost, staff training and development, and on-costs. Increases allow for banding adjustments and scheduled increases.

The current Enterprise Agreement expires on 23 November 2026 and all employment costs have been calculated to take into account the agreed salary increases and increase to the Super Guarantee Rate, as published by the ATO.

Not included in the 2027 budget is an additional funding call from Vision Super for Defined Benefits. The VBI of 103.8% as at December 2025 satisfies APRA's Superannuation Prudential Standard 160 (SPS 160) and a funding call is not anticipated at this time.

Human Resources	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Employee Costs	7,297,500	7,432,810
Total Staffing EFT	66.25	69
% of total expenditure	69.02%	71.89%
Population	444,654	458,686
Expenditure per capita	$16.41	$16.20
2025 State Average Expenditure per capita		$27.90

4 - Information & Communications Technology (ICT)

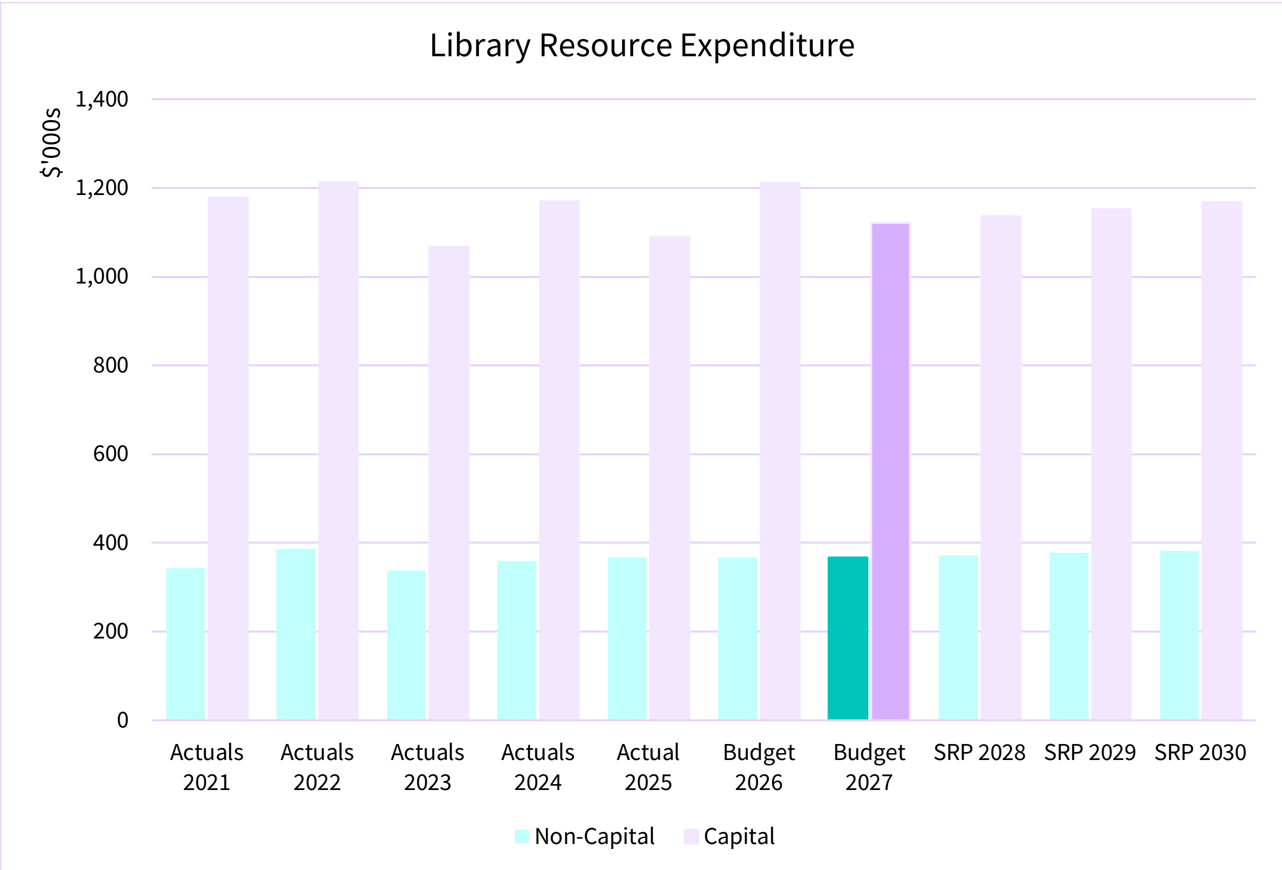
The budgeted ICT operational expenditure reflects the ongoing maintenance and support of core systems required for business-as-usual operations. It also allows for flexibility to respond to service delivery needs and priorities identified in the Library Plan. Expenditure levels have been aligned with current organisational requirements and are intended to support stable, reliable, and adaptable technology services over the life of the Plan.

Information & Communications Technology (ICT)	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Telecommunications	166,300	111,210
Data Communications	51,400	123,360
ILMS	401,775	366,740
Computer Software & Support	0	19,000
Total ICT	**619,475**	**620,310**
% of total expenditure	7.37%	7.26%
Population	444,654	458,686
Expenditure per capita	**$1.39**	**$1.35**

5 - Library Resources and Materials

CL continues to manage its collection to meet ongoing demand for physical items while supporting increased use of digital resources, including databases, eBooks, and downloadable content, in line with community use and expectations.

Library Resources	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Non-Capital	367,000	367,000
Capital – existing collection renewal	1,121,100	1,136,545
Capital – New location collection	90,400	-
Total Library Resources	**1,578,500**	**1,503,545**
% of total expenditure	18.78%	17.60%
Population	444,654	458,686
Expenditure per capita	$3.55	$3.28
2025 Victorian LCs Average Expenditure per capita**		$6.41



4.0 Non-Financial Resources

The library buildings within the City of Casey are owned and maintained by the Council.

There are six service points in the City of Casey:

- Bunjil Place Library
- Cranbourne Library
- Doveton Library
- Endeavour Hills Library
- Hampton Park Library
- Cranbourne West Library Lounge
- Clyde Township Library Lounge

5.0 Schedule of Fees and Charges: 2026-2027

1. **Replacement single disks (from sets):** A standard **$17.00** per CD is made for the replacement of each individual damaged or lost CD from any talking book set.

2. **Lost or damaged items:** A charge is made to replace the item, based on the retail price. (*GST inclusive*). Applications for refund for items valued at more than $10.00 must be accompanied by the receipt. Minor damage incurs a charge of $3.30.

3. **Libraries Victoria Lost or damaged processing: $5.50** processing fee to cover the administration costs associated with lost/damaged items belonging to other libraries.

4. **Computers and Electronic Resources:** Access to information via library computers, ie. the Internet, databases or CD-Roms is free.

5. **Photocopying and printing:**

Black & White Photocopying	Colour Photocopying	Scanning
A4 20¢ *(per single sided page)*	**A4 $1.00** *(per single sided page)*	**All sizes and colours**
A3 40¢ *(per single sided page)*	**A3 $1.50** *(per single sided page)*	**Free per page**

6. **Inter Library Loans:**
Tertiary/ Special and other charging libraries **$34.40**
Victorian Public Libraries and other non-charging public libraries **$5.00**
Libraries Victoria Items are free

7. **Other Charges:**

Library Bags (New member Free), Replacement Bags	**$4.00**
Ear Buds	**$2.00**
USB Sticks	**$10.00**
Book clubs (per annum)	**$100.00**

8. **Library Meeting Room Hire:**
General Rate: **$30.00 per hour**
Creative Rate: **$15.00 per hour**
Definition – a special rate for artists who are running workshops for members of the community e.g. theatre groups, painting classes etc
Community* Rate: **$15.00 per hour**
*(Conditions apply – refer to the Bookings Policy)

9. **Local History Reproduction Fees:**
Contact: Local History Officer
At Cranbourne Library (03) 5990 0150

Local History Schedule of Reproduction Fees

As the custodian of the Casey & Cardinia Local History Archive, CL charges a fee for the reproduction of material held in the Local History Archive. **This fee is not a copyright fee**. CL does not hold the copyright for all material in the collection. It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission from the copyright owner.

The fees stated below are for the publication of ONE item for ONE specified purpose. If another use is required, a new application must be made. A consent form outlining the exact purpose of the copied material and acknowledgment of the source must be completed.

All prices are per copy:

Black & White Photocopying	Colour Photocopying	Digital Image
A4 20¢ *(per single sided page)*	**A4 $1.00** *(per single sided page)*	**Hi Resolution $11.00**
A3 40¢ *(per single sided page)*	**A3 $1.50** *(per single sided page)*	**Low Resolution $5.50**

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