

Item 12.6**Notices of Motion****Holiday Reading - Opening our Libraries over the Summer Break**

By Councillor Arkins

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the important service our libraries provide as a safe and quiet place, connected to community resources and shielded from weather;
- (ii) the emerging role our libraries are providing as a hub of internet access and incidental social support, in an increasingly fragmented social setting;
- (iii) that not all residents have somewhere safe to retreat to over what can be isolating holiday periods, nor do all residents have one singular time of holiday celebration;
- (iv) the City's Libraries were closed from 4pm, Christmas Eve until 2 January during the recent holiday period; and
- (v) that nearby Councils such as Bayside and Willoughby operated libraries on the days between Christmas and New Year; and the Northern Beaches Council Forestville Library returned to its 24/7 operating hours on 29 December; and

- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate opening the City's libraries over the holiday break going forward, for Council's consideration as part of the preparation of the 2026/27 Operational Plan.

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