

# Casey Cardinia Libraries Dissolution

## Community Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

### **1. Why has a decision been made to dissolve the Casey Cardinia Libraries (CCL)?**

The City of Casey and Cardinia Shire have jointly reached an agreement to pursue a different service model for the libraries in the future, which was prompted by several factors.

These include the significant growth and change in demographics of both communities and the Councils wanting to pursue new and separate service models for the library services, along with new legislation in the *Local Government Act 2020* that requires the current regional library model be changed in the coming decade.

The Councils have realised the benefits in operating separate library services and as such have started taking the necessary steps to allow them to explore the opportunities for future service models independently which include the dissolution of CCL.

### **2. What does dissolution mean?**

The Casey and Cardinia Shire Councils have determined to dissolve the Casey Cardinia Libraries Corporation (the Corporation) under Clause 13 of the Regional Library Agreement by the end of 2022.

This essentially means that the Corporation will no longer exist and that library services delivered to the community will be managed through another means.

### **3. When will CCL dissolve and the transition to a new service model happen?**

It is anticipated that library services will transfer to a new model of operation before the end of 2022.

An exact date that services will transfer is yet to be determined and staff, members and the community will be kept informed as planning proceeds, however it is likely to be mid-late 2022. CCL will continue to exist beyond the end of 2022 to ensure all legislative requirements of the winding up process are met, but it will not have staff or a specific function.

Each of the Councils has committed to undertake a coordinated process to explore options and best understand how services will be delivered in the future.

Community consultation will also be undertaken in 2022.

### **4. Will this impact my membership with Casey Cardinia Libraries?**

Casey Cardinia Library Members will be informed about any changes to their membership as Council works through the process. Once the COVID-19 restrictions are reduced, the CCL branches will reopen as planned. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact 1800 577 548.

## **5. What does this change mean for library services in Casey and Cardinia in the future?**

Whichever service model each Council chooses to pursue, there is no intent to reduce the library services to the community but to continue to improve and enhance the much-loved and valued library services into the future.

Councils are committed to working with CCL to ensure the transition to a new service model will be as seamless as possible with little to no impacts to the operation of the library services to the community in the lead up to and beyond the end of 2022.

## **6. What will change about the library service?**

The transition is about finding the most suitable service model for our libraries going forward that complies with the Local Government Act requirements and ensures they are fit for purpose for both Council and the community's requirements now and into the future.

Councils have committed to continuity of library services and maintenance of service standards to the community.

Each Council has committed to undertaking community consultation on its future vision for library services in 2022.

As is the case with any of Council's services or programs, they need to change in response to emerging needs, growth and diversity and there will be planning processes for new library facilities and models that adapt to the different needs of the Casey and Cardinia communities.

## **7. What will happen to the staff who are employed by CCL?**

It is still too early in the process to know what the exact impact on staffing will be, however both Councils will work respectfully and collaboratively with CCL to ensure the best possible outcome for CCL staff as we transition to a new service model.

Whichever new service model Councils choose to pursue for the library services, there will be a focus on ensuring that as many staff can retain their positions beyond 31 December 2022.

## **8. Why have the Councils made this decision now during the pandemic?**

The Councils have sought to maintain business as usual as much as possible during the pandemic and the pandemic was not a significant factor in its decision process.

The Councils would like to acknowledge the fantastic work of CCL staff throughout the past 25 years in particular the COVID-19 pandemic and the dedication and resilience staff have demonstrated to the communities they serve and the organisation.

## **9. Will library services be impacted during the transition to a new service model?**

It's Councils intention that the transition to a new service model will be as seamless as possible with little to no impacts to the operation of the library services to the community in the lead up to and beyond the end of 2022.

This change to a different service model is not about reducing the library services to the community but to continue to improve and enhance the much-loved and valued library services into the future.

Changes will take place behind the scenes, but CCL members and the Casey and Cardinia communities will be able to continue to access the library services throughout the process.

The Councils through CCL are committed to ensuring members and the community are kept informed throughout the process and plan to communicate any potential changes or impacts that might arise with them.

#### **10. Whose decision was this and who can I ask for more information?**

This was a Council decision and Casey Cardinia Libraires should know more about the future structure of the library service in early 2022.

Members will be some of the first people to know when more information becomes available.

You can forward questions directly to Council or submit them to Casey Cardinia Libraires and we will pass them on for you.

#### **11. What is the change in the Local Government Act that relates to Regional Library Corporations (RLC)?**

Library Corporations providing public library services to Member Councils across Victoria were governed under section 196 of the Local Government Act 1989.

The implementation of the new Local Government Act 2020 requires Library Corporations and their Member Councils to find an alternative legal entity governance model. Library Corporations have 10 years to make the transition from 1 July 2021.

The new Local Government Act 2020 references the wind up of existing RLC Regional Libraries as follows:

*Under the Local Government Act 2020 the following changes come into effect from 1 July 2020 for regional libraries:*

*(1) This section applies to a regional library that exists under section 196 of the Local Government Act 1989 (an existing regional library) immediately before the repeal of sections 196 to 197G of the Local Government Act 1989.*

*(2) Subject to this section, sections 196 to 197G of the Local Government Act 1989 and any sections of the Local Government Act 1989 incorporated by reference in sections 196 to 197G of the Local Government Act 1989 and the provisions of any other Act that apply to an existing regional library, continue to apply to an existing regional library as if all of those sections had not been repealed.*

*(3) Despite subsection (2)— (a) no new regional library can be formed; and (b) no additional Council may become a member of an existing regional library; and (c) a Council that is a member of an*

*existing regional library may cease to be a member of that existing regional library before it is wound up.*

*(4) An existing regional library must be wound up in accordance with section 197G of the Local Government Act 1989 before the expiry of the period of 10 years after the commencement of section 110. For CCL it is 6 April 2030, 10 years after the commencement of section 110.*

*(5) If an existing regional library has not been wound up in accordance with subsection (4), the Minister must appoint a liquidator under section 197G of the Local Government Act 1989 to wind up the existing regional library in accordance with that section.*

## **12. Does this change mean that the libraries will be privatised?**

It is not either Council's intent to return a profit or make money from the library service and the libraries will still be owned and funded by Council for the community.

By going out to tender it will allow Council to see what types of entities are interested and suitable to operate libraries on behalf of Council for the community.

While the Casey Cardinia Library Corporation will be dissolved, please rest assured that the wonderful libraries in the City of Casey and Cardinia Shire will remain open, and there will be no change or reduction to the operating hours at any of the branches.