



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

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### **FUNDING BOOST FOR IPSWICH PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

The State Government has provided \$582,029 to buy books and electronic resources for the four library sites operated by the Ipswich City Council.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan and Member for Ipswich West Don Livingstone said the library funding for Ipswich in 2004-05 represented a 1.97 per cent increase on the previous year.

“The State Government funding, through the state Library of Queensland, will subsidise library services for the 1332,000 people living in the Ipswich City Council area,” they said.

“These funds are earmarked to buy new books and related resources such as magazines, newspapers, CDs or tapes and are part of a funding package that will see more than \$18.7 million injected into public libraries in the Smart State this year.

“More than \$14.3 million of the funding will go to 36 Local Governments, like Ipswich, that provide library services in larger communities.

“More than \$4.4 million in funding will be used to support library services in smaller communities, as well as funding for shared resources and strategic development projects for all libraries,” they said.

Ms Nolan and Mr Livingstone said this year’s funding would be provided under the terms and conditions of a new service level agreement between Local Government and the Library Board of Queensland.

“The new agreements are the result of a recent review which examined the way public library grants were disbursed and recommended more flexibility and greater collaboration between the State and Local Governments,” they said.

“The result is continuing improvements of public library services.”

The State Library supports a network of 331 library service points in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote Queensland, which are operated by Local Governments. Queenslanders make 21.4 million visits to these libraries each year and they boast a membership of 1.7 million people which is nearly one in every two Queenslanders.