

24th May 2013

Community Consultation
City Library
GPO Box 2252
Adelaide SA 5001

Re: Adelaide's New City Library

SECRA is pleased to see the establishment of a new Adelaide City Council Library in the heart of Rundle Mall. It is also pleasing to see that it is intended to retain the Hutt Street Library as this facility is well used by residents in the south east precinct.

The concept of a library located in Rundle Mall that includes a large space for exhibitions, a digital hub, public meeting rooms, and a dedicated area to explore local history is supported by SECRA.

At this early stage of the development of the library SECRA has the following comments.

- It is most desirable that the entrance to the library be visible and inviting for the general public walking along Rundle Mall particularly visitors to the city who would not be aware of the existence of the library. An entrance to the library off Francis Street does not lend itself to this concept. This will therefore require some innovative solutions to make the entrance attractive and inviting. SECRA is of the view that the Rundle Mall entrance into Francis Street should be a feature which ensures that persons walking past are made aware of the library's existence. It is assumed that the other entrance via Da Costa Arcade would be used by persons who are aware of the library's existence.
- At a Council workshop held some time ago SECRA suggested that the entrance into the new library should feature historical photographs of the city followed by current day photographs of the same sites for visitors to view as they walk into the library. This suggestion was made before it was known that the library would be located in Rundle Place, which at that stage was in the early stage of development. Unfortunately the entrance of the now proposed library from Francis Street does not appear to easily lend itself to this concept but it would be good to see if this could be incorporated into the design. It could however be incorporated in the car park entrance corridor but this would not be seen by those persons using the Francis Street entrance. The photographs could be changed on a regular basis.
- It would be good to see a display in the library which provides information on the history of Adelaide, including its unique and heritage listed Park Lands. Looking at the City Library floor plan in the recently released City Library Project Newsletter the space for such a display appears to be very limited. Perhaps the atrium area could be utilised with hanging illustrated panels.
- SECRA supports the library initially being open late on weekdays and on weekends. However usage of the library may require that opening hours be reviewed after a period of time.

- The facility is predominately a library but it could well become a “drop-in centre” for young people gathering in Rundle Mall. While these people should not be discouraged in using the library they should be made aware to exercise some restraint and respect as it is a place where some people require peace and quiet to read and concentrate. This may be difficult to police and there may be a need for the provision a “quiet” area. The provision of the “outdoor room” is supported and this area should be provided with umbrellas or shade sails to provide shade for persons using the area.
- The new City Library should be seen as facility that promotes the City of Adelaide to visitors, city workers and residents. As such all displays, signage should be professionally designed and produced. Ideally the library should be managed by a suitably qualified and experienced librarian.

SECRA would welcome the opportunity to further comment on proposals for the new library as they are developed.

Yours sincerely,



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