

State Library redevelopment builds tomorrow's library today

To allow construction of the major redevelopment of the State Library of Queensland to start, staff and services will be relocated from November 2003.

The redevelopment, which will double the State Library's size, is expected to be completed in 2005 and will transform the State Library into a more accessible and inclusive place.

Queensland Minister for the Arts Matt Foley said 'The redeveloped State Library will offer greater access to collections, new services for children, young people and Indigenous people, more space for readers and more activities across the state'.

'Libraries today are no longer just about books. The future of the State Library is about balancing print and digital media, being web-focussed and using technology to empower Queenslanders to gain access to information.'

The temporary relocation of staff and services will allow for quicker, cheaper and safer construction while maintaining services and minimising risks to staff and clients.

'The temporary relocation will ensure that State Library services will remain available to the public during construction. Most importantly, at the end of this period, we will have a State Library which will be a great asset for the people of Queensland and an exciting place to visit.'

The State Library's reference and information service will be provided from the Queensland Cultural Centre Auditorium, adjacent to the State Library.

Remaining services will be provided from the National Archives building at Cannon Hill, and the Griffith



Riverview of State Library

University's Queensland College of Art and Queensland Conservatorium, both at South Bank.

Administration and technical support services will relocate to a nearby State Library facility in Montague Road, West End. A free transport service will operate between all temporary locations.

Regional and online services will continue without disruption during the relocation. Volunteers will continue to play an integral role in the State Library's operations.

The redeveloped State Library will feature a new floor (level 5) on top of the existing building and a new five-level structure which will adjoin the existing building.

This new five-level structure will provide new exhibition galleries, an auditorium and events terrace, business and conference facilities, and purpose-designed collection repositories.

A large covered open-air promenade will welcome visitors to the State Library from the new public plaza and there will be a purpose-designed Indigenous meeting place. The carpark will be extended and extensive renovations undertaken on the existing building.

State librarian Lea Giles-Peters paid tribute to the hard work of State Library staff in the lead up to the relocation.

'This is a mammoth task — more than a million items will be transported as part of the temporary relocation. More than 200 staff will be involved in packing, sorting and moving the items,' she said.

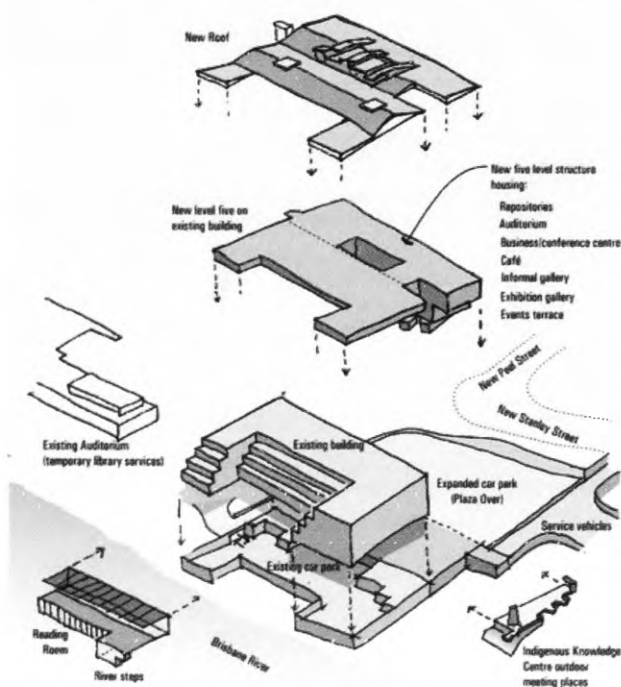
Ms Giles-Peters said the temporary relocation would provide a range of new opportunities.

'State Library staff will be able to share expertise with staff from 'host' libraries and facilities,' she said.

'We will also have the unprecedented opportunity to prepare previously unseen collections for immediate public access when we move back into the building.'

The redevelopment of the State Library is part of the \$260 million Millennium Arts Project, an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

A dedicated phone line has been established to answer inquiries — phone 07 3840 7666 or freecall (outside Brisbane) 1800 017 113 or visit <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au>. ■



State Library of Queensland Redevelopment - Diagrammatic View