

30 October 2013

The Hon. George Souris MP
Minister for the Arts
Level 30 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

State Library

I write on behalf of Denis John Cochrane of Victoria Street Potts Point, who has contacted me about information he has been given about changes at the State Library of NSW.

Denis says that he regularly uses the State Library and has been an avid supporter of this facility since high school. He tells me that he has been told that nearly half the librarians of the Mitchell / State Library will be made redundant, reducing the library's service levels and expertise.

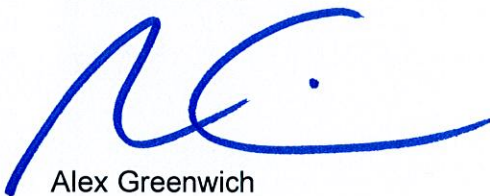
Denis was also told that that the Mitchell wing will be emptied and turned into a 'media events' venue, to be used for commercial events.

My constituent points out that the State Library is a vital part of our cultural heritage and the collection dates from the 19th century, with the foundation of the Mitchell collection itself. I share his concern about the importance of these resources and expertise.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported in March this year on a 2012 PricewaterhouseCoopers study for Infrastructure NSW that warned that NSW has a massive shortfall in funding for cultural and arts facilities and operations, including a \$9.1 million maintenance backlog at the State Library of NSW.

Could you please inform me about current plans for the State Library of NSW and action you will take to provide adequate resources?

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

