

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**File:** 07/03/0007

**Date of Issue:** Thursday 16 February 2017

**Contact:** Leigh Johnston 02 6071 5100

# **Input welcome on Library Hours**

---

Council is considering a change in operating hours to the Tallangatta Library and is seeking input from residents and users about their preferred opening times.

The library currently operates Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm but recent feedback indicates that there is a need to offer alternative hours for people unable to use it during regular business hours.

In response Council is considering different options that would see the opening hours of the facility altered to accommodate weekends and/or evenings. Residents can also choose to maintain the status quo.

Residents are being urged to complete a survey stating their preferences for opening hours that will inform Council's future planning for the library.

Towong Shire Council Mayor Cr David Wortmann said resident feedback was essential in making sure the library meets the needs of the whole community.

"It is fantastic that the Tallangatta Library has become such a valued community asset in such a short time," he said. "It's a first-class facility and it is little surprise that people already want to use it outside of regular business hours."

"We are aware that there are people who want to use the library, but currently can't do so because it is only open during business hours. So we're considering a number of options that could see the library open on Saturdays or remain open later on a weeknight evening to accommodate people with more diverse needs."

"In an ideal world our libraries would be open every day, but we have to manage various aspects such as staffing, running costs and occupational health and safety risks. All of these factors impact how we coordinate our facilities outside regular business hours and we'll have to take them into account."

While Cr Wortmann said that the change would be a good thing for the community, he cautioned there are some drawbacks to altered hours that residents should also consider.

“Residents should be aware from the outset that accommodating alternative hours may result in higher running costs, which is likely to reduce the total operating hours of the library overall. This has been factored into the options proposed in the survey”

To complete the survey, visit [www.towong.vic.gov.au/libraryhours](http://www.towong.vic.gov.au/libraryhours). Hard copies are also available from the Tallangatta Library, the Council Offices in Towong Street and the Tallangatta Pharmacy.

-ends-