

MEDIA RELEASE

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Council to trial new hours for the Tallangatta Library

Towong Shire Council will trial new opening hours at the Tallangatta Library, opening on Saturday mornings and on Thursday evenings, for an initial six month pilot.

Councillors agreed at this week's Council meeting to trial the new hours in response to significant community feedback.

The library had been operating Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm but community feedback had indicated that there was a need to offer alternative hours for people unable to access the library during regular business hours.

A community survey revealed that 89% of respondents supported Saturday opening hours. Of those, 61% wanted to see it open from 10am to 1pm on Saturdays. The survey also revealed that 50% of respondents supported opening into the evening with mixed views on which day of the week this should occur.

To keep the costs of the change down, Council will also trial closing the library on Mondays - a move supported by 68% of survey respondents.

Towong Shire Council Mayor Cr David Wortmann said the decision was a direct response to the community's wishes and input.

"We had a great response to the community survey, with nearly 100 people participating," he said. "It's wonderful to see that the Tallangatta Library and Community Centre has already become such a valued facility for our residents and ratepayers."

"This is the community's library and we're really happy to explore options and models that mean our residents get the most value from it."

"We'll trial these hours for the next six months and evaluate whether it is something that should be implemented permanently."

The trial will commence in coming months when staffing changes have been finalised. Further information will be provided when the commencement date is confirmed.

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