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DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES  
Information Services Branch

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# Library plans unveiled

BY NIKI BURNSIDE

PLANS for Galston High School's new state-of-the-art library have been unveiled, with the state government calling for tenders later this month.

The plans were released by Hornsby MP Matt Kean, who welcomed the news more than two years after a fire destroyed the library, causing about \$5 million worth of damage.

Mr Kean said tenders will be called next month with construction anticipated to commence mid-year.

"Libraries are an important focus of learning," Mr Kean said.

"The library is on track to be built and ready for action in Term 1 next year.

"Galston High's new library was developed in close consultation with the school."

The library will include tiered seating, four seminar rooms and computer areas.

"The new library with its state-of-the-art facilities will

complement and reinforce the outstanding quality teaching and learning that is

the hallmark of Galston High School," Mr Kean said.

The Education Department commenced work on planning and designing a new library immediately following the fire, but Mr Kean said detailed plans for a replacement were delayed as the insurance claim was finalised.

The new library will replace a demountable building that has been in use since the devastating fire on May 19, 2014.

Firefighters had little chance of saving the library when called to the fire, where the multi-storey block was well alight and the roof of the building already collapsed.

Investigators treated the fire as suspicious initially but then changed their minds.

Principal Jillian Turlas said at the time the fire appeared to have been started by an electrical fault, "possibly the server or the cir-

cuit board".

In the months that followed, community members and groups also raised thousands of dollars to replace books and other resources

lost in the blaze.

The fire destroyed a memorial plaque to a late student, nearly 50 laptops, technical equipment, books, photocopiers, servers, kids' lockers and memorabilia.

Four memorial trophies were also lost, among them one that commemorates former student Vanessa Hosen who was murdered in 1990.



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**UNVEILED:** The new state-of-the-art library will feature tiered seating, four seminar rooms and computer areas. The state government will call for construction tenders later this month.