

MITCHELL LIBRARY

Re: meeting with Alex Byrne, John Vallance, Richard Neville

19 February 2014

We are here only as the initiators of a request to the Library to call a meeting where our concerns about the library's future can be publicly aired and answered. We are not elected representatives or spokespeople, and our opinions, which vary no doubt, are not the point here: only the question of when and where a public meeting will take place and what form it will take.

Our request began modestly just over a week ago. It has been signed by more than 3000 others, including large numbers from Victoria and other states, and more than 335 from overseas. One of the things this reveals is that the Mitchell is seen as a place that belongs not only to Sydney or New South Wales. It is seen as an Australian institution, admired and respected throughout the country and held in affection by a large number of Australians who value our culture and are disturbed by a crisis in our cultural thinking that might endanger its future. The large number of international signers of the petition suggests that this crisis is world-wide and that many people overseas are looking to what happens here as of international importance.

We're sure the Library and all its officers and boards are encouraged to have demonstrated, in such a public way, how widely the Mitchell is appreciated, and will see immediately how much in their interest it is to retain that respect by seizing the opportunity the petition now offers them.

David Malouf

Evelyn Juers

Geordie Williamson