Dear local council,

I am writing this letter to you from my deep concern and heartbreak from your decision to just erase and replace our beautiful haven for a noisy, chaotic place full of communism. The library is not just a random place for books to stay. It is a place where people thrive and grow. It’s a great place for all different reasons, for example, the stories are great, there are bean bags for you to sit on, a great place for peace, study and for communicating with other people who also love the library just like you. Can you really take this historical library just for a shop with unfair treatments, annoying customers and a place for crime?

Please I beg you, do not take our sanctuary the library away. The library is for the children who have yet to find their favorited book. For the teenagers who need a space to study. For the parents who need an escape and the elderly who need a kind word. For everyone. A library is not just a building. A library is a second home. Children go there to escape to other worlds. Teens go there as a respite from school pressures to engage in a bit of literacy in a quiet sanctuary. Young adults, adults, and seniors go there for peace and companionship and education while feeling part of an extended family. It's a place that brings generations and cultures together like pegs on a board creating the most beautiful patterns. Why would you ever want to disrupt that?

Have you considered what will be there instead? Chaos. Noise. People fighting over dollar store items. Upside down displays, rotten food, angry customers. This isn't what people want for the future. This is absurd. Why would a loud ranting and raving community be better than a quiet place of education? I realize that this may be a small change for some constituents. But for us, it's monumental. It's everything. You won't be just destroying bricks and mortar. You'll be destroying memories. You'll be eradicating places of quiet and exploration. How would YOU like it if something your parents took pride in, a place learned in by your grandparents with your parents and you, just disappeared like it was always unimportant?

And what of the staff? The personable librarians who help us find what we want or try to push something new on us. There is one librarian for every 500 Australians. Where will they go if a library no longer exists? They will no longer be able to do what they love in a space that makes a difference. Libraries decrease stress and promote creativity, according to mental health experts. Those who utilize libraries possess greater intellectual curiosity, are more open-minded and globalized, and feel more connected. Isn't this what we want for our community? A space where people can feel relaxed, inspired, and accepted?

Books don't judge us. They sit on their shelves, waiting to be removed and read cover to cover. Social media may be the trend, attracting clickbait and reality. Just imagine how the authors and illustrators would have felt if all their books they spent hard work on got removed. Please hear those who care for our library, please keep the place that helped all of us.

Sincerely, Sophie