

21<sup>st</sup> April 2011

## Library to receive over \$180,000 for Radio Frequency Identification

Shoalhaven City Council yesterday voted to accept funds from the 2010/11 Country Library Fund Grant of \$181,355 and for those funds to go toward the implementation of Radio Frequency Identification tagging (RFID) at Shoalhaven Libraries.

Set to revolutionise how we borrow, RFID will mean our libraries will now have self checking mechanisms and automated shelf reading capabilities.

Increasingly replacing the old barcodes in libraries, the RFID works with radio frequencies and can store key identifying information.

Unlike current barcodes, RFID does not need a direct line of sight, and can scan several items at a time, allowing for much more efficient collection management practices.

One of the attractions of these systems, already used in many libraries around the world, is its security capacities. Electronic gates are installed so un-scanned items are picked upon exiting the library, alerting staff to possible theft of library materials.

Shoalhaven Libraries Manager, Ms Noela Lim says staff are excited about implementing this new technology in the Shoalhaven. "The RFID system will mean greater efficiency in our work practices. This will free our staff up so they can attend to more customer based services like reference, reader's advisory work, and other activities and programs. The added security of the system will also mean our collection is better protected."

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