

Reforming Public Library Services

Business Case



OVERVIEW

1. Value and importance
2. Structural reform
3. Funding
4. Consequences of funding alternatives
5. Outcomes of reform



PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

Intensively used

- 905,593 registered users
- Over 7 million visits per year to libraries
- 95% of Australians believe libraries are important or very important



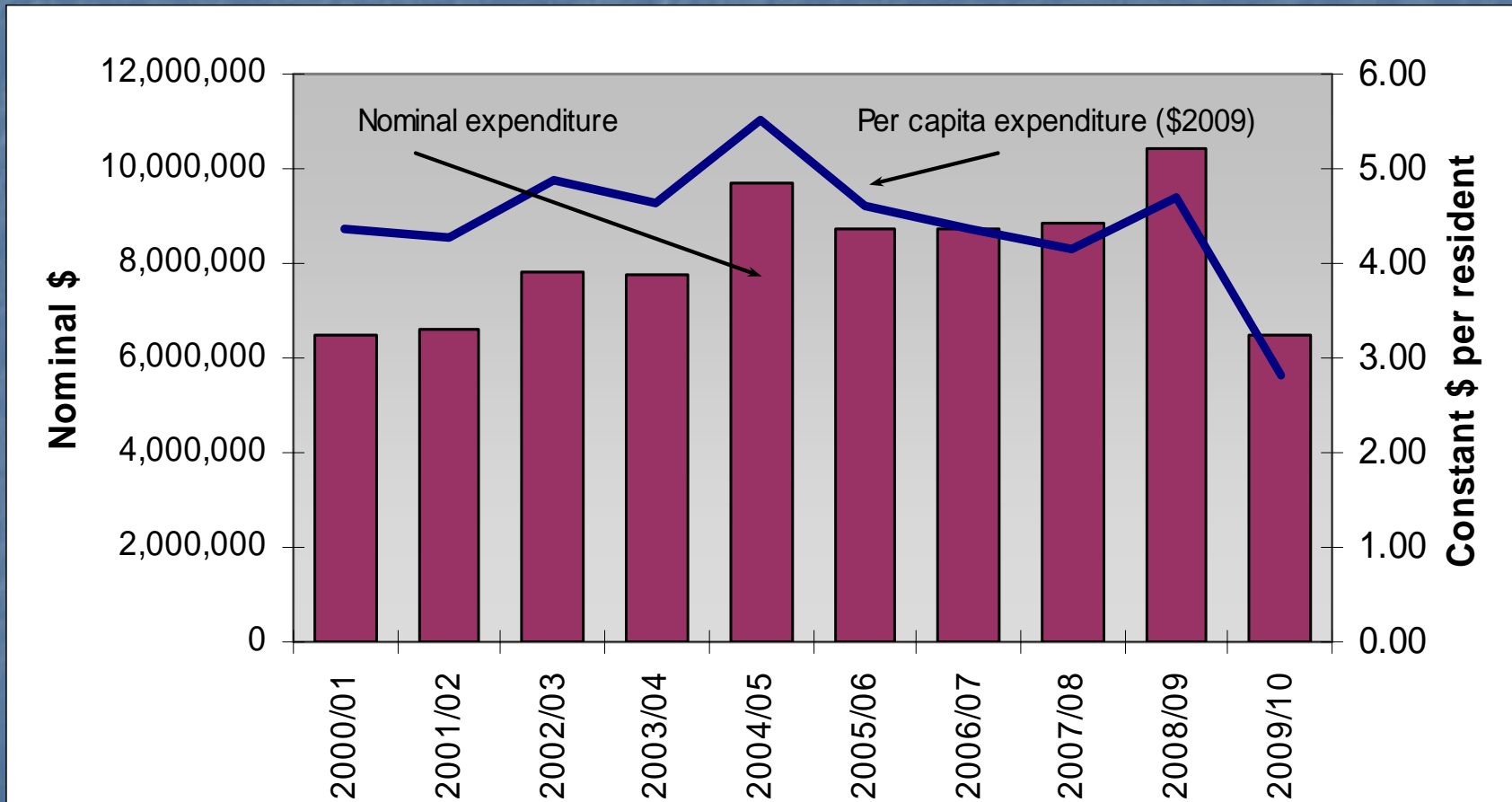
PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

Significant value

- Direct economic benefits \$3.66 - \$4.24 per dollar invested
- Multiplier benefits of \$1.49 - \$2.82 per dollar invested
- Strongly leveraged by Local Government investment



State Government investment in public library (materials)



Funding Reform Objectives

- Ensure content needs are met
- Facilitate effective asset management of collections
- Develop more efficient procurement, distribution and materials movement models



Funding Reform Objectives

- Maintain a strong and influential Library Partnership Agreement
- Enhance the regional model for service delivery
- Implement a new funding model for public libraries



Funding required

Core Library Services Grants

- \$11 million in 2010/11
- Recurrent grants
- Indexed for population growth
- Adjusted for net cost increases
- Replace existing quota of materials provided to each library (capital)



Core Library Services Grants

Benefits

- Collection content and services tailored to local needs
- Timely and efficient provision of shelf-ready materials
- Focussed exchange system for libraries choosing to participate
- Clear accountability for the performance of investment in collections

Core Library Services Grants

Implementation

- Per capita basis adjusted for cost disadvantages associated with distance, community size and dispersion
- Centralised purchasing to achieve economies of scale
- Optional participation in exchange system
- Business Plans to guide and govern investment

Innovation & Development Grants

Deliver strategic and local projects aligned with reform objectives

Benefits

- Competitive grants support highest value projects
- Leverage funding from Local and Federal Governments and private sector



Innovation & Development Grants

Examples

- Outreach programs to target specific groups including seniors, indigenous, young adults (model Better Beginnings)
- Information technology advances such as single library card and linked library management systems
- Digitised local history

Funding required

Library Reform Coordination

- \$0.28 million per year
- Inform and facilitate implementation of reforms

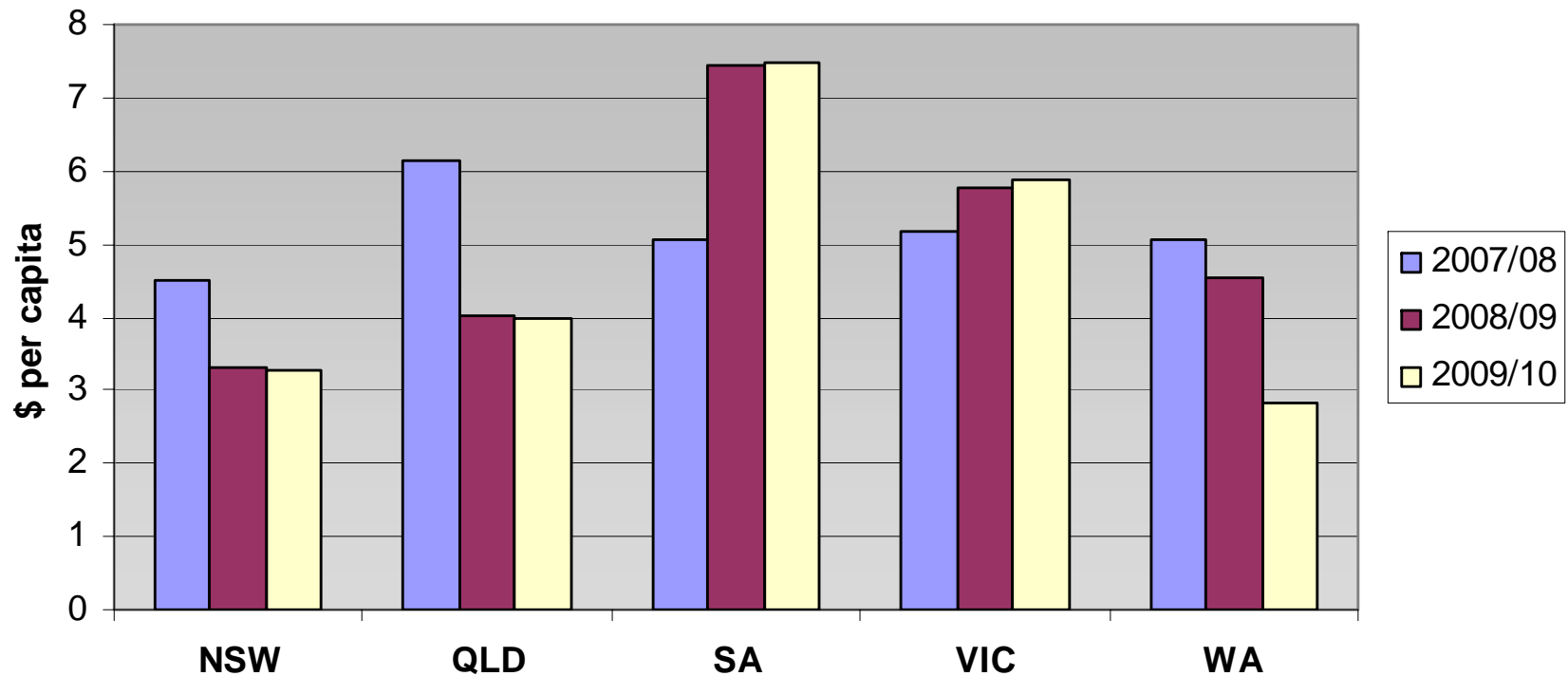
Benefits

- Contemporary library service
- Greater contributions to economic and social development

Alternatives

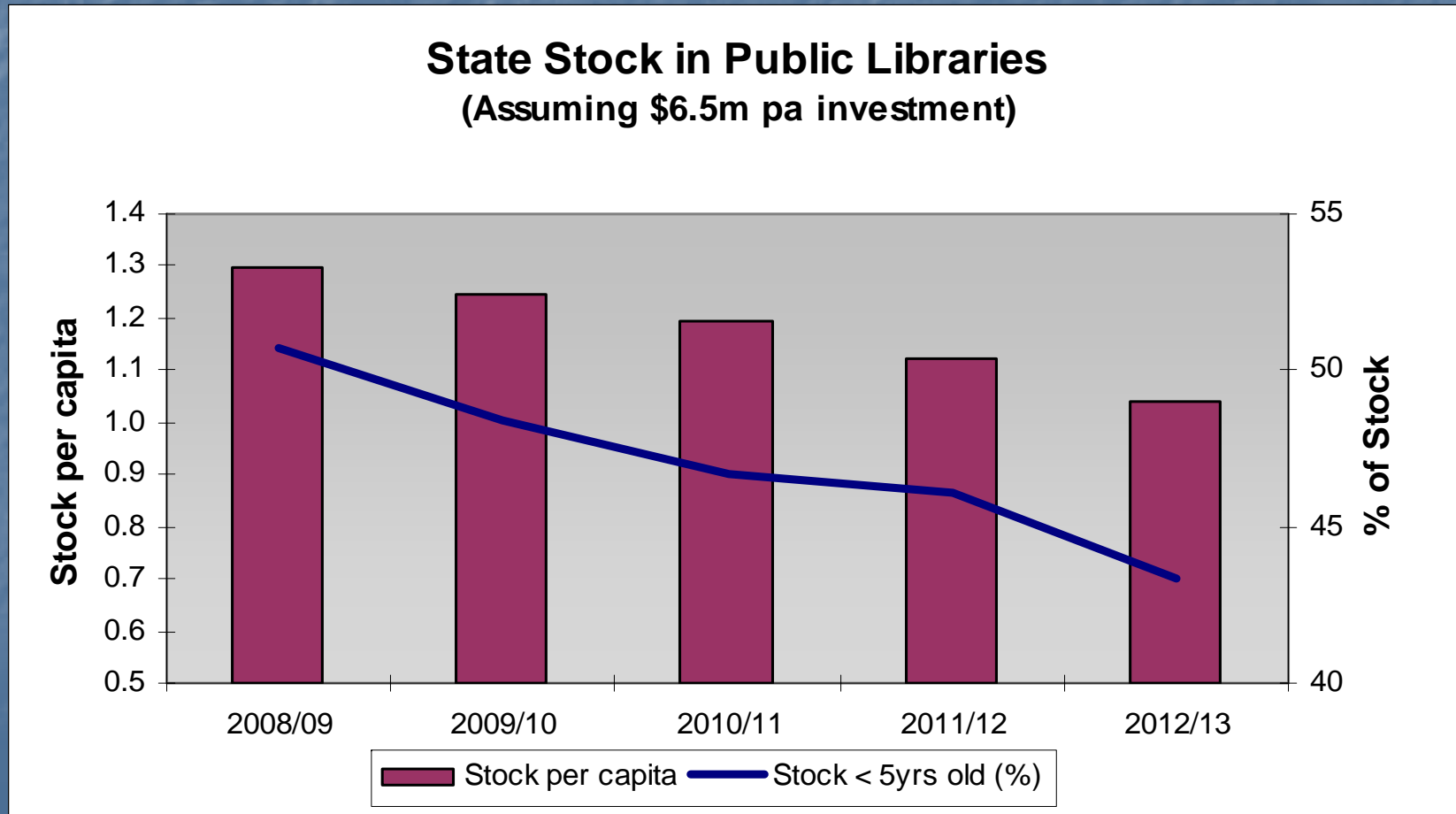
WA falls behind other States

Expenditure on Public Library Services by State Governments



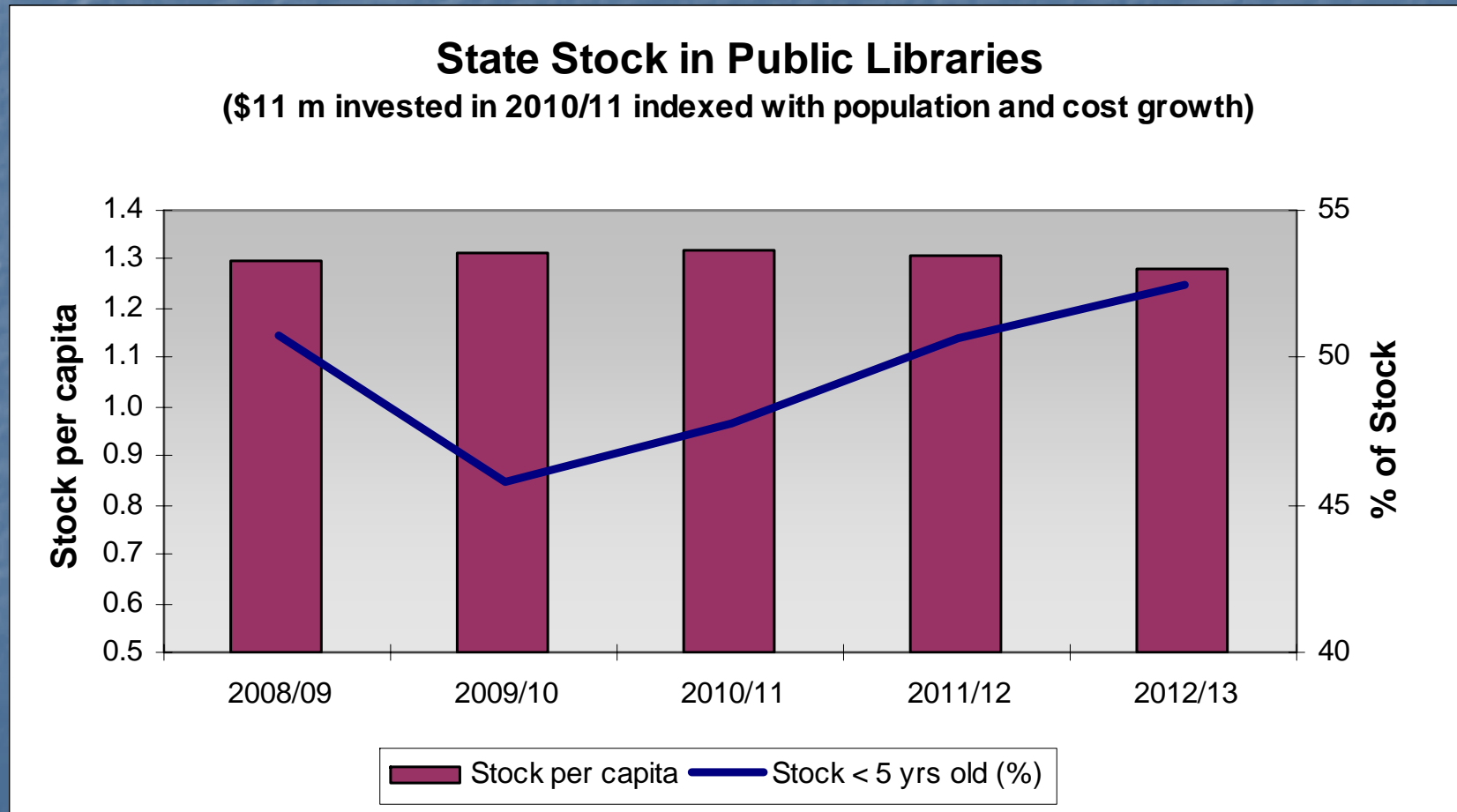
Alternatives

Smaller, older collection – less value



Recommended Service Performance

Contemporary, tailored collection to meet community's needs



Public Library Reform

Delivering

- Well informed, literate and learning communities
- Connected resilient communities
- Community memory
- Accessible relevant content
- Community hubs
- Skilled and innovative workforce
- Continuous improvement
- Strategic partnerships
- Good governance
- Visible and valued services

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