

HANSARD 2003 at the time of the new Act

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SUE BRADFORD (Green) : On behalf of the Green Party, I would like to say how pleased I am to see this National Library bill go through its third and final reading this afternoon—almost a year since it was first introduced to the House in May 2002. I am sure there will be a sense of relief, and, indeed, celebration once this bill is passed, given the years of uncertainty and, at times, distress faced by supporters of both the National Library and the Alexander Turnbull Library over the last decade or so. **My heart has gone out to employees and friends of the two libraries, who have had, for example, to try to stop the destruction of material, the selling-off of books, the cutting of funding, the casting-out of good staff, and so on. The cultural devastation, which peaked in the “managerialist” era of the late 1990s, has cast a long shadow over New Zealand’s recent library history.**