

Powerhouse: Labor still wants to keep museum near CBD

[Anna Caldwell](#), The Daily Telegraph

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A 30,000-piece fashion and creative industries art collection will remain at Ultimo under the state government's plans to shift the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta. The Saturday Telegraph has learnt key details of the favoured plan, which is yet to be signed off by Cabinet, as Labor ramps up its attempts to block the museum's relocation.

Government insiders see maintaining an Ultimo exhibition as a nod to inner west groups who have opposed the Powerhouse plan.

The government has previously flagged there may be some arts presence retained there but there has been no detail until now.



NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley said yesterday that “not one person” in his electorate has ever told him “they want a bit of the Powerhouse in Parramatta”.

The Telegraph understands the museum's relocation will be driven by a “west has the best” ethos, and will develop the Powerhouse into a “better” facility with a science/technology and flight focus.

In his most bizarre comments to date, Labor Leader Luke Foley — a Western Sydney MP himself — declared yesterday that “not one person” in his electorate has ever told him “they want a bit of the Powerhouse in Parramatta”.

But Parramatta Lord Mayor Andrew Wilson hit back, saying that's “an odd statement by the man who is trying to represent them”.

[MUSEUM WILL NOT GO TO PARRAMATTA IN ENTIRETY](#)

[POWERHOUSE STAFF IN DEBAUCHED MUSEUM PARTY 'WITH WHITE POWDER'](#)

He added that Mr Foley's voters “weren't stupid” and would know it was “ridiculous to argue against a major investment in the west”.

The government's favoured plan also proposes a major expansion of the Powerhouse's Museum Discovery Centre — which is open to the public for browsing — at Castle Hill.

The Telegraph understands the business cases for the relocation to the banks of the Parramatta River have taken advice from hydrology experts so that the floor of the new museum will be built above the 100-year floodwater mark in a major protective measure.

The government is considering funding options to support the move, which may involve the sale of the remaining land at Ultimo, but no decision has yet been reached.

Labor has backflipped on its support for the Powerhouse's Parramatta move, with Mr Foley instead favouring only a performance space be built in the region, saying he didn't want "Neville Wran's gift to the state chopped into three pieces".

Minister for Western Sydney Stuart Ayres accused Mr Foley of being "the most anti-Western Sydney leader Labor has ever had".

Tom 3 hours ago

Fact: The museum has never been discussed in the democratic (recently elected) council and one of the last acts of the deposed council was to object to the use of the dictatorially chosen site for the relocation of the museum. Mr Wilson therefore cannot speak on behalf of the council in this way.

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danny 3 days ago

Leave it where it is; it is centrally located to the North, South, and East. I want to know the REAL reason the dopes are wanting to relocate.

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Gary 4 days ago

I find it funny that the Minister for the Eastern Suburbs, Mr Ayres has a shot at Mr Foley for being anti-Western Suburbs? Isn't this the same man that is giving the Western Suburbs all the toll roads and the Allianz stadium knock down rebuild, than calls other people anti-Western Suburbs. Maybe Mr Ayres could be "the most anti-Western Suburbs politician the Liberals has ever had"

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Ray 4 days ago

Just leave it where it is. Very accessible to everyone.

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Les 4 days ago

The Powerhouse Museum should stay at Ultimo. It is a location central to all of Sydney. I took my children there many times when they were young, it made for a good day out. The Parramatta site could be utilised to set up a second location to display the many treasures that cannot be displayed at the Sydney site due to lack of space.

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HEREWEGOAGAIN4 days ago
Leave it where it is...it ain't broke

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2 LikeReply



Peter4 days ago
@HEREWEGOAGAIN No move it to Parramatta give access to whole of Sydneys population which is the centre of metropolitan Sydney it is out of the way and costly to access at Ultimo.

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Peter4 days ago
I'm cynical about this. Mike Baird just wanted to give the land to developers for apartments. He wanted to shut the greyhounds to get rid of Wentworth Park for the same reason. I'd be surprised if he'd ever visited the place.

It should be left where it is, in the museum's own historical context(as the former Technological Museum from 1893) and should be supported by an enlightened government.

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Peter4 days ago
The Power house museum will look magnificent on the banks of the Parramatta river alongside Lennox Bridge which has history itself. Parramatta had the first working farm in Australia that saved the new colony Glays is correct. This is where the Powerhouse belongs the ergonomic centre of Sydney not the lies spilling from the inner city Toffs. Foley declaring 'not one person in his electorate said they want the power house at Parramatta'. Foley's electorate consists of 90% new migrants from lands that had no relevance to the past 230 years of Australian history they don't care just like the inner city selfish mob who want to it for themselves. Big thumbs up to Glays Berejiklian stand firm. Western Sydney voter

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El Darco4 days ago
@Peter Powerhouse Museum belongs where it is now, Sydney's first power station.



Craig4 days ago
An anti-Western Sydney Labor Politician. That should work well for them!!

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2 Like Reply

patricia4 days ago

Is this just spending more money just for the sake of it? Leave it where it is. It is wonderful and easily accessible for all. Fix up your other problems instead.

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Paul4 days ago

Cannot believe it, NSW Labor finally useful for something.

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Peter4 days ago

First time Foley has said something I wholeheartedly agree with. The main museum belongs in the city where the transport hubs take everyone who doesn't live on the Penrith rail line.