

RELOCATION PLAN

# Powerhouse business case secret for 90 days

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The NSW government will withhold the business case for the controversial relocation of the Powerhouse Museum for three months after the final decision is made.

Despite having received the business case for the move to Parramatta last year, and just days after releasing the same documentation to justify its revised stadiums policy, the government has promised to release a summary of it 90 days after the decision.

Arts Minister Don Harwin, via a spokesman on Sunday, gave the strongest indication yet that the government had reached the final stages of the decision-making process.

"The business case was delivered to the government in December, and has since been going through a number of assurance processes that need to be completed before an informed decision can be made," the spokesman said.

"Infrastructure NSW - the

government's independent assurance agency - will release a summary of the Powerhouse business case 90 days after the government makes the investment decision."

The government is expected to rely on the business case to make a decision about the future of the museum's current location in Ultimo, which has remained

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shrouded in uncertainty and speculation of a potential sell-off.

It follows the unprecedented step taken by the Berejiklian government last week to publish the business case summaries for its plan to rebuild Allianz stadium and refurbish ANZ stadium in a bid to quell public outcry over the \$1.5 billion price tag.

The Labor opposition, which has repeatedly called for the government to financially justify its Powerhouse relocation plan, said delaying the disclosure until after the investment decision had been made meant the process continued to "lack any measure of accountability".

"What is the point of releasing the financial criteria after the massive expenditure of taxpayers' dollars?" Labor's arts spokesman Walt Secord said.

"A full financial disclosure must occur before the Berejiklian government commits to such a multibillion-dollar expenditure; the NSW taxpayers deserve nothing less."

The decision to move the Powerhouse Museum from its heritage-listed premises in Ultimo to Parramatta has been mired in controversy since it was first announced by then-premier Mike Baird in February 2015, as part of an election pitch to create an arts and cultural precinct in western Sydney.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian recommitted to the plan in July.