

# Powerhouse Museum to move despite ‘missing business case’



The site of the government’s preferred location for the Powerhouse Museum. Picture: Jonathan Ng.

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Premier Gladys Berejiklian has given the final sign-off to move the Powerhouse Museum from Sydney city to Parramatta after getting the proposal through state cabinet, with the project to be announced as early as today.

This month *The Australian* revealed the cost of moving the museum from inner-city Ultimo to Parramatta in Sydney’s west is between \$700 million and \$800m with the benefit-cost ratio about 1.1 — only just in the black. It is believed the move met resistance in state cabinet yesterday.

The sign-off came as the full business case for the controversial move was to have been released to the NSW upper house after government MP Matthew Mason-Cox crossed the floor and voted for the documents release.

Instead, letters were tabled from the secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tim Riordan, and Arts Minister Don Harwin’s chief of staff Andrew Kirk, denying the government held the documents.

Greens MP David Shoebridge said: “This was an order of the parliament, and the Coalition government has again sought to avoid scrutiny, this time alleging there is no preliminary or final business case to produce. They are now getting to the point of farce.”

He said the government was denying the final business case existed, despite Mr Harwin having said he received it in December.

Opposition Arts spokesman Walt Secord said the failure to produce documents was “arrogant” and “contemptuous”.