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**Granville MP Julia Finn slams Powerhouse Museum's Parramatta move as "lame 70s throwback"**

**Stacy Thomas, Parramatta Advertiser:**

"PLANETARIUMS suck". American adult animated sitcom South Park captured one local MP's sentiments perfectly.

Antagonist Eric Cartman may have said it on the television show but Granville state Labor MP Julia Finn said he took the words right out of her mouth. The MP spoke in parliament last week, berating the State Government's decision to relocate a portion of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta and, added a domed planetarium to the site's drawcards. "It's like some 70s throwback and I think it's kind of lame. I don't think it's exactly what we've been screaming out for or needing," she said.

Julia Finn has likened the planetarium announcement as "lame" much like Cartman did on a South Park episode. "We could be putting together something that really turns the cultural cringe elements of people's thinking of art in western Sydney. Something that would probably be good to do is consultation with the community. It should be driven by the community."

But Legislative Council government whip Natasha Maclaren-Jones hit back claiming the Labor Party were not concerned about the residents of western Sydney. "It is clear that Ms Finn does not believe in world class cultural and educational facilities for western Sydney, underestimating the community's appetite for educational and cultural centres," she said. The Labor Party's vote against the museum's relocation is the fourth time in the past month they've not supported key projects in western Sydney according to Mrs Maclaren-Jones. Others include the Metro South West, relocation of the Industrial Relations Commission to Parramatta and the upgrade of ANZ stadium.

In the season two episode of South Park, Cartman and his friends are excited to go on a field trip, only to be let down when teacher Mr Garrison reveals it's at the planetarium. "After the "it's boring" and "all the constellations look alike" comments, Mr Garrison replies: "Too bad, you're all going to the planetarium tomorrow and you're all going to love it". They arrive and Cartman wants to do something else. Mr Garrison lays down the law. "No, you have to go in this building and see a bunch of stupid stars." They all wind up being brainwashed by the planetarium's director to keep coming back.

"I can't imagine many people will go twice," Ms Finn said of the Parramatta planetarium. With only a portion of the Ultimo-site museum coming to Sydney's west, Ms Finn said it went against the government's original promise by then premier Mike Baird to move the entire museum to Parramatta. "I think it's really disappointing the museum is going to be chopped up.

"I think there's a 'beggars can't be choosers' thought that when the government announces something, we fear that if we criticise it, it will be taken away because we never get anything." She said it was a risk speaking up, but said she'd rather fight to get something that most people want than "accept something lame to point at and say 'hey, we've got an arts and cultural centre'."

"I'm happy for them to spend a billion dollars to bring a world class cultural precinct to Parramatta. "I want it to be one that everyone comes back to."

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/parramatta/granville-mp-julia-finn-slams-powerhouse-museums-parramatta-move-as-lame-70s-throwback/news-story/63518008d69e1c242887c19164a0bc1a>