

24th April 2018
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The Hon. Robert Borsak MLC
Parliament House

Dear Mr Borsak

I hope the "Exclusive Power Failure" article has been brought to your attention. (Daily Telegraph (DT) April 18.

The article comprehensively trashes the museum with the declared aim to "*Wresting a prized museum from the inner city elite for the battlers of Western Sydney was never going to be easy.*"

My major concern is with the Editorial statement on p 20 of the DT and I quote a section of it.

A secret report commissioned in 2014 by the Museum of Arts and Applied Sciences Trust found that a thorough and long-overdue renewal of the current Ultimo location would have cost \$350.4 million. The government's present estimation for an Ultimo renewal is north of \$500 million.

I don't believe DT would have fabricated this. This was leaked to them to boost their agenda to get rid of the Ultimo problem. Your enquiry is probably the only body that can test the veracity of this statement.

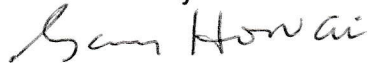
If indeed the statement proves to be correct, then I make the following comment.

30 years ago the Powerhouse Museum was opened as one of the pillars of the Bicentenary Celebrations. If the government did concoct this report in 2014 then remarkably at the same time, with much fan fare they installed a new management team to be led by Rose Hiscock. Great things were promised. The Goods Line was also about to be opened to the public. Then in Feb 2015 the Baird government pulled the plug and the site was to be sold off. (I have been following the Ultimo saga for over three years and it took DT to reveal to me that the museum is now beyond repair).

My take is that the government is playing it smart. The museum can't be saved, but some part of the structure can be retained as the so called cultural space. The rest of the site will be handed over to the developers. Thereby the government "saves" \$500m and gets whatever for the sale of the site. The Parramatta site can then be developed on a rubbery budget and designed like the unfortunate Camel by a committee. The current collection will be "temporarily" dispersed and most of the large capitol items will certainly never make it to Parramatta.

Hope your enquiry goes well on May 28.

Yours sincerely



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