

Staff steamed up over idle, damaged Powerhouse Museum objects

Linda Morris, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 November, 2018

<https://www.smh.com.au/by/linda-morris-hvegg>

Attached to Linda Morris's article, above, **COMMENTS** from readers include:

salti

This is an absolute disgrace. This incompetent state government should be ashamed. But of course they won't be because they don't care and have no interest in museums or anything else in this state that remotely pretends to be Art and culture.

Sir Rex

I just cannot express how deeply upset I am by this proposed move.

It is nothing but bloody-minded and political with a backwash of selling more public assets thrown in. Most people don't realise but this museum has been around the Sydney CBD area with various names since 1880 when it was the 'Technological, Industrial, and Sanitary Museum'.

It has been located in Harris street in Ultimo since 1893.

Moving it is tearing it from its deep connections with its heritage and totally annihilating an important and irreplaceable thing - its sense of place.

I agree with what others have said - moving it will decrease patronage dramatically.

Many visitors now are tourists or local day-trippers. Without quality transport from the CBD, such as high-speed rail to Parramatta, tourists will stop stop visiting as will the local day-trippers. The main patrons will become school groups and day trips from nursing homes...

All this heritage lost so this grubby, greedy government can sell still more of Sydney's heart and soul to their developer mates.

Ghost

Great strategy of chocking off all maintenance and then when it falls into disarray shrug and sell it to developers. Look what they have done with the ICC, it's a soulless block, squishing as much rental retail space possible. Where is the "artist impression" of what they are going to build on this site?

TeeKay

NO, not the oldest, but the oldest working ROTATIVE steam engine - the rotational aspect making it of greater value to industry.

The Oldest working steam engine, six years older and dating from 1779, is at a Birmingham Museum.

ibast

As someone who lives in the Western suburbs and who's partner works in the Arts I have to say the move to Parramatta is a joke. sure it'll get some initial numbers but in a few years it will be struggling and will eventually shut down. People in the West just don't have the time, money or inclination to patronise the Arts and every attempt to bring Arts to the west in the past has either failed or requires huge amount so taxpayer funding. Also consider no-one from interstate or overseas is going to visit it in Parramatta, but do make up a small, but significant percentage of visitors at it's current location. the move is a huge waste of taxpayer's money and it is ultimately doomed to fail. but only after it has sucked in even more taxpayers money.

Vas

Any neglect of these important exhibits would be a great shame, as it will be years before the new Powerhouse Museum is built at Parramatta. Meanwhile every week day there are school tour buses unloading students for excursions to the Museum as a going concern. Hopefully they are not writing

project reports on broken or damaged exhibits. Where else but in NSW would you have to trade in a museum to get a new one? No worries, it's Just the public being shortchanged again.

srg

First things first...we can't have new stadiums and also spend money looking after old equipment. Now that these items have been found this State Government will call in the scrap metal dealers to put a price on them

Kangshen

Exactly - the LNP - they know the "cost" of everything, and the value of nothing.....

TheThinMan

A small postscript to the "movement" of the PHM. I see numerous PHM books showing up in piles of "remainder" bookshops. It's nice to get them for a couple of bucks each, but the conspiracy theorist in me asks why aren't they being put into storage for later sale at the new site. Maybe the new site will be "delayed"... Time for Gladys to go for good, although one can't really blame her, she's just doing what she's told by people who really run the Liberal Party in NSW.

lainie03

Please NSW Government. Just do a backflip on this one and regenerate the Powerhouse in its current location. It would win you some badly needed votes.

asmodemusX

Sell it off. Slap some racing ads on the Opera House. Demolish the Botanic Gardens. Dangle some Durex ads from the Harbour Bridge. This government clearly values nothing that can't be sold off for a quick buck. The ultimate end point of a neo-liberal capitalist dog-eat-dog society. Doesn't it sound wonderful?

PrivateCitizen

It 'needs to happen' so that the existing Ultimo site can be flogged off to fill with apartments for people moving to Sydney. (Have a look at what has happened to the old Entertainment Centre site in Haymarket. It must set a new record for how many apartments can be jammed into a site.) They don't care about the tradition of the museums in Sydney. They are just not interested in heritage or the environment. They need to be voted out before they do more damage.

ap_prog

Let the NSW Liberals do with it what they have always wanted to do. That is, sell it to the Smithsonian Institute. At the Powerhouse it's tucked away on one side almost as an afterthought. No one in power seems to care about it as much they should. And of course developers have been salivating over the land the Powerhouse currently occupies for some time.

Here's a thought, privatise all the museums and art galleries, rezone the land and allow developers to build apartments over the top of them. Oh and include a couple of lower rent apartments to demonstrate awareness of social issues.

Garry COX

This is a disgrace-the Boulton and Watt Steam Engine maybe the most valuable single item in Australia- valued well over 100million. The Smithsonian has a replica of it, and we have the original! Sydney Museums and Galleries are pathetic for a supposed Alpha city of 6 million- all of them. And the Liberals have just announced spending another 500million on the War Memorial in Canberra!

Hermione

\$100 million, you say? That's great, maybe we could sell it off and recycle the profits into a water play park or something Western Sydney voters would really enjoy.

Jack

Yeah, as if I'm going to hop off my cruise ship and catch a train to Parramatta to see the museum when I could have included it in my tour of Darling Harbour, Maritime Museum, Chinese Gardens etc

No Sideshow

What tourist, local or international, is going to travel to Parramatta to visit the PHM? It would be a complete waste of money. Is it an election stunt? Not to those of sound mind. Voters out there don't give a rat's ass about museums. They are more interested in getting a good kebab and looking in Cash Converters for a bargain or the objects taken in the latest burglary.

Villains also won't be seen there because it's the location of the Parramatta Bail Court, always entertaining for the media's crime reporters.

westie

Keep the MAAS where it belongs, increase its budget and move build the new AGNSW 'Addition' in western Sydney. A nice simple set of gallery spaces in a green riverside/heritage setting and fill it with items from the AGNSW collection - everything from contemporary local art, to Art Express, to historical items. Simple.