

From online submissions to the Greater Sydney Commission Pyrmont Planning review:

1. Gladys Berekjiklian's attempt to sell the suburb to a gambling company is in direct insult to the Sydney community. A direct extension of further negative planning as per the selling of the Powerhouse museum which was fraught with negativity in the community.
2. [I am a] supporter of Powerhouse Museum and local history [with] concern for overdevelopment: The area has a strong attraction with existing history and buildings, as well as institutions such as the Powerhouse Museum. Over-development is heading fast towards destroying these attributes, and audiences - local, national and international - will not be attracted to it.
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4. It's actually an overdeveloped corridor of apartments. Keep the Powerhouse Museum where it is.
5. Too many apartments. Keep the Powerhouse in Pyrmont.
6. Financial transparency over decision to move Powerhouse Museum is lacking. Why move it, if it's going to be smaller and more expensive to build/maintain, compared to keeping it in existing location?
7. If the government were serious about an "innovation corridor" it would not be moving the Powerhouse Museum to a flood-prone site in Parramatta. This Museum could be the centre of innovation and design in conjunction with the adjacent educational institutions. Instead of that they want to put in more crappy apartments.
8. Ultimo Powerhouse Museum belongs to Ultimo, why moving it to Parramatta, just to make more apartments. This is beyond understanding. Let Parramatta build its own Museum based on their history and leave Ultimo Powerhouse Museum as a part of Darling Harbour.
9. I'm particularly concerned about the planned relocation of the Powerhouse Museum away from Ultimo. I believe it forms an important world-significant cultural hub for the whole area and for the greater Sydney area as well.
10. Pyrmont IS a good place to live and work though it must be said that the unfathomable and indefensible decision to remove the Powerhouse Museum, instead of spreading its acquisitions to two locations, does reduce the number of things to visit, apart from the Fish Markets and restaurants. Pyrmont has adjusted to medium to high density housing but it has a valued character which residents do not want spoiled by over-development.
11. The quality of the places for people to work is enhanced by the successful adaptation of so many architecturally distinctive, historic industrial buildings such as the 1899 Ultimo Power Station, now the Powerhouse Museum winner of the 1988 Sulman Award for Architectural Merit and the 5/6 storey 1910 W. L. Vernon Royal Edward Victualling Yard Warehouse, in Pirrama Road, Pyrmont, adapted for the Seven Television Network and now purchased by Google.
12. The Pyrmont History Group brings together long-term and recent residents of Pyrmont, to explore the industrial history of this area, and how it shapes the way we live now. The redevelopment of Pyrmont in the 1990s took care to preserve and repurpose buildings to create continuity with the past and preserve some of the precinct's character. This was too late for the Burley Griffin Incinerator but other important structures were successfully retained (Wool stores, Jones Bay Wharf, Powerhouse, Glebe Island Bridge etc.). These outcomes were produced by the

engagement of heritage and archaeological experts and close consultation with the community. Our recent experience is that consultation is often replaced by sessions of selective information, and meetings are conducted by specialised companies with no skin in the game. The Bays Precinct project began by discussing issues with residents and other stake-holders, then lapsed into information sessions, before these were abandoned.

13. It is now difficult to persuade residents to take part in a charade, so we encourage the Commission to mandate the revival of the successful tradition of serious heritage research and genuine consultation. The State Government has bullied its way around our community using the Darling Harbour Precinct, The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, The Urban Taskforce, The Hotels Association and Mega Gambling interests. It has made multiple land control decisions and acquisitions with minimal consultation. The MAAS 'Powerhouse' Museum is a recent example.

14. We are a peninsula of Villages with vibrant communities represented by vigorous associations. We want it to stay that way. Calling a snap review into the Pyrmont peninsula after the State's own department rejected the Star Casino egregious proposal to build a luxury residential apartment (and some hotel rooms on the back of that) in breach of all local planning rules, as well as the Premier's pre-emptive comments about Pyrmont being "open for business" is a sham and holds no credibility when the State has moved institutions like the PowerHouse Museum away from Ultimo. Coupled with the sheer expediency of this review has completely removed all credibility of the whole NSW planning system. The Peninsula already meets the criteria for the Government's vision of an "innovation corridor" and a "Gateway to global Sydney CBD":

15. Pyrmont's liveable, low-rise environment is ideal for residents, small/medium businesses and visitors to the CBD. Ultimo, however, is strongly multicultural, has not been "gentrified" and much of its rich industrial heritage has been preserved, with charming Victorian terraced cottages, converted industrial warehouses and wool sheds lining quiet leafy streets. Above all, Ultimo is the home of the internationally respected Powerhouse Museum, whose unique collections so vividly reflect the area's industrial history. Yet the Museum too, is under "high rise" threat from the Government, which aims to redevelop the site and construct two 70 m residential towers to replace the current heritage-protected and/or award-winning buildings. This would not be possible under current planning controls (L EP and DCP 2012) and would severely impact Sydney's lucrative visitor economy. The proposed 66 storey Ritz Carlton tower is completely inappropriate for the medium/low rise character of the Peninsula and would overshadow nearby low-rise properties. It would erode quality of life for existing residents and make the area far less appealing to visitors and prospective new businesses.

16. Submission from Wiliam d'Anthes The latest version of Darling Harbour has even more buildings but fewer refreshing water features and has its back now fully turned away from the most densely populated area of Australia, Ultimo and Pyrmont including the soon to depart Powerhouse and Harry's final public contribution to public architecture, the Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre. I should also mention a couple of famous buildings that are losing or have lost or their contemporary reasons for being namely the highly controversial dispossession of the Powerhouse Museum

17. [planning is] Pretty decent, aside from the loss of the Powerhouse Museum.

18. The current framework hampers the evolution of this to be part of the Sydney CBD. So many other far flung places in Sydney are building high rise apartments and offices to cater for that growth yet any attempt to build higher/denser in Pyrmont - a suburb less than 1km from the powerhouse that is the Sydney CBD is hampered by these planning controls. The area is close to some of the best transport options in the country and should be allowed to house more jobs and more residents. Maintaining the status quo is choking Sydney's ability to further grow Pyrmont peninsula is clearly one of the City of Sydney's urban villages with its own culture and social mix

plus attractive and unique spaces like Union Square and Pirrama Park. These have been delivered by the current planning framework. Pyrmont IS a good place to live and work though it must be said that the unfathomable and indefensible decision to remove the Powerhouse Museum, instead of spreading its acquisitions to two locations, does reduce the number of things to visit, apart from the Fish Markets and restaurants. Pyrmont has adjusted to medium to high density housing but it has a valued character which residents do not want spoiled by over-development.

19. -Ultimo ... has resisted gentrification: (average income per head is half that of Pyrmont resident).Much of its charming Victorian character has been conserved by heritage- significant terraced cottages on quiet leafy streets, and restored industrial buildings .-Its rich industrial past is further reflected in the unique collections of the Powerhouse Museum, Itself under a Government threat to construct two 70-storey apartment towers on the site (not possible under the "current planning framework".), the Museum is a major visitor attraction and its loss would damage Sydney's economy,

20. Ultimo has a mixed of charming old terraces, converted warehouse residential apartments and new residential buildings under the current planning controls, and is a "vibrant mixed-use precinct in proximity to the global Sydney CBD with a charming village atmosphere". It has the Powerhouse Museum (which needs to stay in Ultimo) and we already have an innovation corridor - ABC, UTS, TAF E, IT businesses in the area. We believe this provides a correct mix already. We submit that any future dense developments would disturb this mix and request that the Government refrains from over development in our area with inadequate open space and infrastructure.

21. -Ultimo has also evolved successfully, from a run-down post-industrial wasteland into a colourful, multi-cultural precinct. With a strong media presence (ABC); educational sector (UTS, Tafe, Sydney Uni. and the Powerhouse Museum for Arts and Sciences); and numerous entrepreneurial IT start-ups, Ultimo, too, is clearly already part of the identified" innovation corridor."

22. Nothing in the current planning framework prevents innovation. Innovation does not require large buildings. It requires people interacting in interesting spaces. In Pyrmont / Ultimo this means protecting public spaces such as the Powerhouse Museum, Goods Line, Jones Street thru TAF E, Quarry Green, John Street and Union Square. It also means improving accessibility with easier walking connections to the CBD and the unis/chippendale. The current planning framework can deliver on that. Just do it!

23. Please don't sell of the powerhouse museum. We need more community/cultural spaces in the neighbourhood. We also need more green spaceThis area is densely populated. People are having families and staying in the area, rather than moving to suburbs further out. The schools are already inadequate, traffic is heavy, parks and green space is limited, the family friendly Powerhouse Museum is under threat. What city that pretends to be world class would even consider getting rid of a museum in the most densely populated and family oriented part of the city?

24. The Berejiklian government is already taking away our beloved Powerhouse Museum. Please do not allow this government change our lovely neighbourhood.

25. Pyrmont is the location of choice for leading media organisations including Google, Fairfax and Star Entertainment, while Ultimo is the home of TAF E, UTS, numerous IT start-ups, the ABC and the heritage-protected Powerhouse (Arts and Sciences focus). It is therefore totally unnecessary to artificially manipulate the current planning framework to accommodate construction of the proposed 237m Ritz Carlton tower - eight times the height allowed under existing planning controls.

26. Today, Pyrmont is home to the headquarters of several corporations including Vodafone and Google. It is also in the vicinity of a number of higher education facilities and tourist attractions like the Powerhouse Museum, the Australian National Maritime Museum, the Star Casino, the Sydney Fish Markets and Union Square. Unfortunately, however, the Powerhouse Museum looks set to move to Parramatta, which is ironic given the Premier wants a review of the area's planning to ensure that "Pyrmont area has a bright and exciting future as a key part of the NSW visitor economy."

27. Keeping the Powerhouse Museum should be essential to this plan. If more hotel rooms are needed why did The Star convert their hotel rooms to apartments? Pyrmont will need a metro station but that should be able to be fitted into the existing plan. Pyrmont has a large and active community; any further development should be dependent on improving the quality, accessibility and functionality of the existing community, improving the infrastructure and maintaining the open spaces - definitely not overshadowing them with unnecessary and unnecessarily tall towers.

28. Above all, Ultimo is the home of the internationally respected Powerhouse Museum, whose unique collections so vividly reflect the area's industrial history. Yet the Museum too, is under "high rise" threat from the Government, which aims to redevelop the site and construct two 70 m residential towers to replace the current heritage-protected and/or award-winning buildings. This would not be possible under current planning controls (L EP and DCP 2012) and would severely impact Sydney's lucrative visitor economy. The proposed 66 storey Ritz Carlton tower is completely inappropriate for the medium/low rise character of the Peninsula and would overshadow nearby low-rise properties. It would erode quality of life for existing residents and make the area far less appealing to visitors and prospective new businesses.

29. It is effective. For generations, the Ultimo area has been full of single-family homes and industry. It is now thriving as a mixed-use precinct, home to the ABC, UTS, the Powerhouse Museum (Arts and Sciences), and a startup ecosystem. The Pyrmont area has been industrial, which has more recently transformed into modest-scale unit blocks and professional offices such as Google. The area's transition to non-industrial uses has been successful, evolving gradually according to existing planning regulations. It's not broken.

30. The southern part of the area offers a convergence between higher education (UTS, TAFE) and industry by way of the facilities of the Powerhouse Museum and various startup communities.

31. I am greatly concerned that the state wants to raise limits for height and density in the area, to support greater valuations on state land that it wants to sell off (e.g., the Powerhouse Museum property on which one or more towers are planned), and to support the desires of a casino that has been a donor to the LNP, for a super-tall tower on the foreshore.

32. Major submission from Elizabeth Elenius, Convenor Pyrmont Action Inc.

We maintain that the current development standards and controls have delivered a "vibrant mixed-use precinct in proximity to the global Sydney CBD". Many of our members have lived through the ~30 year transition of Pyrmont from an abandoned industrial precinct to a vibrant residential/commercial suburb, complementing, but not of the Sydney CBD.

Cultural Facilities

To ensure that Pyrmont and Ultimo become even more "vibrant" than at present, and provide a focus for "creative industries", as well as a tourist destination, there can be no greater imperative than to retain the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo.

It is the site of the Ultimo Power Station which powered the first trams which ran along Harris Street. It houses the huge engine which provided that power. It is in its relevant context, and has alongside it,

the Innovation Corridor, comprising UTS, TAFE, the ABC and a myriad of large and small innovative businesses.

The recent Legislative Council Enquiry demonstrated that the Government's business case for moving it lock, stock and barrel to Parramatta and far removed from its historical, and modern context, doesn't stack up. It is a historical, technological, cultural and tourist icon, in its place, in Ultimo.

Parramatta should also have such a cultural facility, but one which is of relevance to that place – Western Sydney – with its rich agricultural and migrant heritage.

Recommendation 13: The Powerhouse Museum and Tram Sheds should remain as part of the Innovation Corridor in Ultimo. These sites should not be sold for private development but retained as the southern-most tourist destination in the corridor stretching from Central Station to The Star Casino.

We extend an invitation to Commissioners to meet with us in Pymont to enable us to show you around our vibrant mixed-use suburb that is in proximity to the global Sydney CBD.

33. City of Sydney: *The City of Sydney has constantly been on record as supporting the retention of the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo. Their submission required that the redevelopment of the Powerhouse Museum site should incorporate a strong focus on creativity and culture. It offers a chance to integrate the site with the growing cultural and creative precinct on the western edge of the city, and the opportunities offered by the Goods Line and visitor infrastructure in Darling Harbour. Any redevelopment of the Powerhouse Museum site prioritises cultural uses.*

34. Major submission from The Better Planning Network Inc.

(BPN) is an incorporated, volunteer-based, not-for-profit association established in 2012. Our aim is to advocate for a robust and visionary NSW - one that fosters best practice environmental, heritage, social sustainability and design outcomes and ensures that best practice planning is achieved through a collaborative and authentic community partnership engagement approach.

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After completing a comparative study of the planning systems in 80 international jurisdictions, Leslie Stein, adjunct professor of urban planning at the University of Sydney, described the NSW planning system as the "least democratic" and "most complicated" in the world.