

1 March 2020

“ULTIMO TRAMWAYS POWER HOUSE” HERITAGE LISTING A HOAX?

Save the Powerhouse Facebook post:

You may have heard or read recent reports of a proposal for possible State Heritage listing of the “Ultimo Tramways Power House”, and asked yourself “where on earth is that?”

On 25 February a delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW (an “independent statutory body” in the Department of Premier and Cabinet!) wrote to a local community organisation as follows <http://tiny.cc/565okz> . “The...Council... resolved, at its meeting of 12 February 2020, to give notice of its intention to consider listing Ultimo Tramways Power House on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgement of its heritage significance to the people of New South Wales.”

The letter goes on to explain that the former “Ultimo Tramways Power House” (Station) is potentially of State significance historically for being the first large state-owned electricity generating station in NSW – completely true.

But what does this fictitious title “Ultimo Tramways Power House” that the Heritage Council has dreamed up actually refer to? Museum specialists who have analysed available information (see the Powerhouse Museum Alliance website <https://powerhousemuseumalliance.com/> and NSW Office of the Environment” report <http://tiny.cc/ls5okz>) fear that it is designed to mask the intention, not overtly stated, TO LIST ONLY THE EXTERIOR SHELL (without interiors) of the original Power Station building, not the “Museum” as we know and understand it.

A further puzzle is the fact that this part of the Museum (ie former Power Station + contents) was already locally heritage-listed years ago by the City of Sydney. So this proposal would effectively “delist” the Museum (see explanatory image below).

If you are confused by all this, so are we! A sick joke by our warped NSW Government? Another blatant attempt to stack the odds in the Government’s favour? Or merely one more example of such blundering ignorance that it cannot even get the right name for the institution it aims to place on the heritage list?

One thing that the Heritage Council’s letter makes clear is that we now have the opportunity to protest strongly against this travesty of a proposal, and demand that the Powerhouse Museum in its entirety (ie including the Sulman-price-winning Wran building and the Harwood Building) must be placed on the State Heritage list.

“Any members of the community...or other interested parties are invited to make a written submission regarding the proposed listing and significance of Ultimo Tramways Power House.

Submissions should be posted or emailed to the Heritage Council of NSW at the following address during the public submission period commencing on **26 February 2020 and closing on 24 MARCH 2020**: Heritage Council of NSW, Locked Bag 5020, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

NSW legislation Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 **Save the Powerhouse, 29-02-2020**
Current version for 14 February 2020 to date (accessed 29 February 2020 at 17:13)

.1. Former Ultimo Post Office: State listed (exterior and interior)
.2. Wran building: not listed
.3. Powerhouse Museum, former warehouse buildings: locally listed (interior and exterior)
.4. Harwood Building: not listed

Address	Listing	Level	Reference
Ultimo Former Ultimo Post Office including interior	494 Harris Street	Lot 1, DP 770031	State I2030
Ultimo Powerhouse Museum former warehouse buildings, including interiors	500 Harris Street	Lot 1, DP 631345	Local I2031
Ultimo Glasgow Arms Hotel including interior	437-420 Harris Street	Lot 1, DP 631345	Local I2032

Heritage NSW wants to replace the local listing (exterior and interior) of the Powerhouse (3) by a state listing (exterior only)?
It is in fact a de-listing of the interior of the Powerhouse.