

NEW POWERHOUSE IN PARRAMATTA

More information: www.infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/powerhouseparramatta



Community webinar – April 23, 2020

Key themes

During the webinar some key themes were identified, these include:

- Heritage impacts – particularly Willow Grove and St George's Terrace
- The museum location – particularly other locations considered
- The building design – particularly other designs considered
- The name of the new museum
- The functionality and flexibility of the museum spaces
- The creative residences – particularly how they will be managed
- The timing of consultation – particularly during COVID-19

The identification of these themes during this session and other engagement activities have helped inform the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Questions on notice

Throughout the webinar a series of questions were taken on notice and the Project Team advised these would be responded to at a later date. Please see below responses:

Q: In comparison with Ultimo, what exhibition space is planned for the new museum?

A: The new Powerhouse will be 30,000 sqm and include 18,000 square metres of exhibition and public spaces, compared to the current Powerhouse Ultimo which has 15,708 square metres. The new Museum will feature seven large scale, flexible presentation spaces of unprecedented scale with the largest being 3,000 sqm (column free and 20 metres clear height) to showcase the Powerhouse Collection. Details on the individual exhibition spaces will be in the EIS.

Q: Will the business case become available?

A: A summary of the business case is available on the Infrastructure NSW website, available here http://www.infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/media/1539/maas_fbc_summary.pdf

Q: How has heritage been considered?

A: The NSW Government understands the importance of local heritage to the community and the international design competition focused on developing the best outcome for the people of New South Wales. All finalist design teams were asked to consider aspects of heritage and cultural significance, including the local heritage buildings. While the retention of heritage was carefully considered during the judging process, the jury was unanimous in its decision on the final chosen concept. The winning design will reflect and engage with the multiple histories of the site, including its Indigenous histories.

We are aware the community place high value on these buildings and a comprehensive interpretation strategy will be developed as part of the EIS to celebrate the multiple histories of the site. Themes will be outlined in the EIS and further explored during detailed design.

Q: Will anything happen to the Powerhouse in Ultimo before August?

A: In 2019, the Powerhouse announced that the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo will remain open to the community until June 2021 with a staged closure commencing from July 2020. The Museum's program of temporary exhibitions, education programs, digital workshops, Members' Lounge and its café and store will continue to operate until June 2021. The Museum's permanent exhibitions will close in June 2020. Following 2021, a targeted community and regional program will be delivered.

Q: Was the design jury advertised and who were the participants?

A: Members of the design jury were invited to participate based on their expertise in architecture, design, arts and management of iconic cultural institutions. This is in accordance with the design excellence guidelines and approved by the Secretary of Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Q: The former minister previously announced \$75million funding was required for the project. What is the status of this funding?

A: On 28 April 2018, the NSW Government announced a \$645 million investment in the Museum. The Powerhouse will also run a capital campaign, similar to that of Sydney Modern project, the expansion of the Art Gallery of NSW.

Q: Will significance statements be completed to ensure every item at Powerhouse in Parramatta relate to Parramatta?

A: The Powerhouse Collection Digitisation project will result in new levels of community access to the Museum's extraordinary collections and will involve significant statements for the Collection objects and over one million 2D photographs will be taken.