

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/future-unclear-for-powerhouse-museum-and-stadium-upgrade-20200528-p54x9r.html>

The Sydney Morning Herald

Future unclear for Powerhouse Museum and stadium upgrade

By [Lisa Visentin](#)

May 28, 2020 — 3.53pm

The controversial Powerhouse Museum relocation and the planned upgrade of ANZ Stadium are both under a cloud, with Treasurer Dominic Perrottet telling key crossbenchers the projects are being reviewed.

It comes as NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian refused to guarantee the projects would proceed as planned, as she defended the government's proposal to freeze public sector wages for 12 months. "I'm not going to comment on any of those things, suffice to say the one tool governments have to keep jobs going is infrastructure," Ms Berejiklian said on Thursday.

[Artists image the design of the new Powerhouse museum proposed for Parramatta.]

Ms Berejiklian also opened the door to the possibility the projects could be postponed. "We will make very clear to the community if, and when, we are pushing anything back or bringing anything forward," she said.

[RELATED ARTICLE

[NSW Premier freezes public sector pay for 12 months](#)]

Shooters, Fishers and Farmers MP Robert Borsak said Mr Perrottet described the Powerhouse move and the ANZ stadium upgrade as being "under review" during a meeting with the party's five MPs on Thursday morning.

At the meeting Mr Perrottet failed to convince the MPs of the merits of the freeze proposal, which would see more than 400,000 public servants denied a 2.5 per cent pay rise for 12 months.

"We will not support a wage freeze or cuts to the public sector as a means to regain the money lost from poor decision making by this government in NSW," the party said in a statement after the meeting.

Greens MP David Shoebridge said he also raised the issue of the Powerhouse move when he discussed the wage freeze with Mr Perrottet.

Mr Shoebridge declined to reveal the specifics of the conversation but said: "It would be fair to say it (the Powerhouse relocation) doesn't appear to be the Treasurer's pet project."

Mr Perrottet has been contacted for comment.

[The upgrade of Stadium Australia is under review. *CREDIT:ANNA KUCERA*]

The relocation of the Powerhouse to Parramatta has been projected to cost up to \$1.1 billion by Infrastructure NSW, while the refurbishment of ANZ, also known as Stadium Australia, into a rectangular facility has been budgeted to cost \$810 million.

Ms Berejiklian declined to say what action the government would take if it failed to convince the NSW upper house to back the wage freeze. "We will cross that bridge when and if we come to it. We have a number of options before us," she said.

The government has sought to justify the measure as one which would save \$3 billion, which would then be used to create up to 20,000 jobs. In a pitch to crossbenchers, Ms Berejiklian said the alternative to freezing wages would be more severe, but gave no details. "The alternative is worse than what we are proposing," she said. "Something has to give." "I'm asking our colleagues in the upper house to consider those options."

One Nation MP Mark Latham also confirmed on Thursday that he would not support a wage freeze.

Without the support of the Shooters or One Nation, the government's attempt to implement the wage freeze via regulation is set to be overturned in the NSW Legislative Council, which can vote to disallow regulations.

Labor, the Greens and the Shooters have confirmed they will support a disallowance motion to reject the regulation when Parliament resumes next week.