

**31 May, 2020**

**'Powerhouse 'Move' reconfirmation is not the end'  
Save the Powerhouse group**

The overnight news that "Premier Gladys Berejiklian will keep her pledge to move the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta" ( <http://tiny.cc/ign0pz> ) is undeniably disappointing but, realistically, not unexpected. And it certainly does not signal the end of the community's five year battle to save the Ultimo Powerhouse and give Parramatta the new cultural facility it wants and deserves. Read also The Guardian <http://tiny.cc/tin0pz>

In the past weeks, rumours have been rife about intra –Cabinet discord over the whole project, especially the estimated \$2 billion (and rising!) costs. Treasurer Dominic Perrottet, who visibly has his eye on the Top Job, clearly has a greater sense of responsibility and broader vision, as the custodian of the public purse, than "Big Spender" Gladys. He and unnamed colleagues have consistently refused to confirm the "move", until now saying only that it is "under review". The low-key, late Saturday, Government announcement that - for the moment - it will go ahead, reflects the rumoured internal dispute in Cabinet about the extravagant and unnecessary costs of the proposed ANZ stadium makeover (\$810 million) and the Powerhouse "move"...

According to SMH, "Senior Liberals said there was agreement it had to be one or the other" So Berejiklian and her "core leadership group", WHICH DOESN'T INCLUDE PERROTTET, long under intense pressure from the Western Sydney business lobby to "gift" the Powerhouse to Parramatta, opted to ditch the stadium.. She "justified" the decision by "saying the Powerhouse project will create 1100 construction jobs."

But as one leading expert has observed "The only thing that (would move) to Parramatta is the Powerhouse name!"

Whatever happens next, one thing is certain. This battle is not over and the movement to save the Powerhouse - this campaign, the Powerhouse Museum Alliance, politicians, journalists and many dedicated individuals, will fight on until it is won. We know that Gladys is already struggling to control a rebellious Cabinet. How much longer can she hold out on the Powerhouse? Even if she has not listened to the public voice to date, could this be the last straw that finally breaks her?

If we

- flood her office with protests (emails <https://www.nsw.gov.au/premier-of-nsw/contact-premier>, CC other Ministers (Perrottet, Barilaro, etc...)
- call (02) 8574 5000 (Ministerial Office)
- give our full support to the pending Inquiry into Museums and Galleries,
- write to the media,
- lobby Labor (Walt Secord, Jodi Mackay...), Greens (David Shoebridge...), SFF(Robert Borsak...) and cross-benchers.

Who knows what we can achieve!

*Save the Powerhouse*

 **Savethepowerhouse**