

MEDIA CALL: KEEP THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM

Thursday 17 June 2020

(organised by the Powerhouse Museum Alliance)

11.00 am, Forecourt, Powerhouse Museum

500 Harris St Ultimo, Sydney

Speakers:

Jennifer Sanders, Former Deputy Director, Powerhouse Museum, on behalf of the Powerhouse Museum Alliance.

Suzette Meade, representing Parramatta residents.

Jamie Parker MP, Greens, Member for Balmain. Long term supporter for the Powerhouse Museum to remain in Ultimo.

Jennifer Sanders : KEY POINTS

The much loved Powerhouse Museum, one of the world's great museums of science, technology, design, decorative arts is being destroyed.

Our history, our heritage, our memories, our stories are being trashed.

140 years old, the Museum is being evicted from its Ultimo home where it has been since 1893. It will never be seen in all its glory again.

Its outstanding exhibitions are being dismantled and the impressive objects taken off display and trundled off to who knows where – at great cost and great risk.

The NSW Government of NSW is destroying this museum by pursuing its 2014 Powerhouse to Parramatta thought bubble, against all expert advice and, in the face of sustained community opposition from across Sydney, NSW indeed Australia and the world.

\$1.5bn dollars plus to move the Museum 23kms to a smaller, inadequate, building on a flood prone site which is less accessible for people from across NSW. A building which destroys more of Parramatta's heritage and history. Seriously!

In these challenging times of fire, flood, drought and Covid 19, why waste all this money which would be better spent supporting communities across NSW.

The little town of Rappville in Northern NSW has no sewerage system for heaven's sake!

The Powerhouse Museum is integral to its magnificent building and the Ultimo – Pyrmont precinct.

Recently released designs for the Parramatta building reveal that only 2,000 sqm will be dedicated to Museum exhibitions – less than 10% of the museum standard environmentally controlled exhibition space in the Powerhouse Museum.

There will be far less of the collection on display – less stories, less interactives for the kids - less of a museum! It won't be the Powerhouse Museum.

Keep the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo – renew it and let the generations enjoy its awesome exhibitions and be inspired by the magnificent collection.

Let families stand under the belly of the Catalina – the largest and heaviest plane to hang in any Museum in the world. Gaze up at the Bleriot, the Air Ambulance – look up into the Saturn V rocket engine and imagine going to the Moon. Marvel at the Locomotives, horse drawn tram and penny farthing bicycle. The grunting and huffing of the steam engines - the sounds and sights of steam powered energy and motion.

And be gobsmacked by the Mona Lisa of the Museum – the officially priceless 1785 Boulton and Watt engine powered by steam as it was in the London brewery where it launched the Industrial Revolution.

From 1 July, these magnificent exhibitions will close and the Powerhouse will be lost to the world. FOR NO GOOD REASON. AT ENORMOUS COST AND RISK. THIS IS MADNESS

It is cultural vandalism to destroy one of NSW's great treasures.

We need more museums not less. No Global city destroys its heritage.

There are far better choices for Government:

- Keep the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo and renew it
- Listen to the people of Parramatta and build the Museum they want.
- Fund culture across NSW and support community museums.
- These initiatives will cost less and build culture, preserve our heritage and fund jobs, jobs, jobs across the state.
- The Powerhouse Museum's renaissance in Ultimo can begin today.
- Keep the Museum open for the people of NSW.

For Interview: 18 June 2020

Jennifer Sanders, former Deputy Director Powerhouse Museum, museum and heritage expert, member Powerhouse Museum Alliance

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Kylie Winkworth, Life Fellow, former trustee, major donor to the Powerhouse Museum, museum and heritage expert, member Powerhouse Museum Alliance

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David Miller PhD, FAHA, FRHistsS, Emeritus Professor of History of Science, School of Humanities and Languages UNSW, Author: *The Life and Times of James Watt* released May 2019

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<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/submissions/67909/0093%20Professor%20David%20P%20Miller.pdf>

Suzette Meade, Parramatta resident and advocate for Parramatta's heritage and culture

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Dr John Macintosh, Expert Water Engineer from Water Solutions Pty Ltd; Honorary Fellow of Engineers Australia and recipient of the 2016 Australian Professional Engineer of the Year Award. Expert on Flood risk at Parramatta – see Submissions to the First and Second Inquiry.

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/submissions/67911/0095%20Water%20Solutions.pdf>

Debbie Rudder, 'the curator who was responsible for interpreting the engine for over 20 years'.

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