

16 June, 2020:

'... these questions still remain'

In its Facebook and email messages, the well-supported community group *Save the Powerhouse* writes: 'In just 15 days' time, the Berejiklian Government seems set to carry out its threat to close forever the mighty Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo and the Powerhouse Museum Alliance has issued a statement that speaks for all of us:

"The Berejiklian Government has the Powerhouse Museum on death row... Australia's best exhibitions of planes, trains, working steam engines, science and applied arts – our history – will be dismantled. These collections will never be seen together again. The Museum's site will be sold to developers".

They remind us:

- that 'The Powerhouse Museum and its collections belong to the people of NSW, not the Premier ... (yet) the Berejiklian Government is spending \$1.5 billion to 'move' (=destroy!) the Museum 23kms west to Parramatta. But they are NOT building a museum."

This was confirmed by "Parra Milkcrate" architects Moreau Kusunoki & Genton in a recent video entitled "Powerhouse PRECINCT (NOT MUSEUM!) in Parramatta."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPrUffGpeos>

They reveal that:

- none of the 12,643m² floor space, 50% of the 21,400m² exhibition-quality space in Ultimo, will be dedicated to the Powerhouse Museum collections. (see detailed analysis from museums expert Kylie Winkworth <http://tiny.cc/5s2vqz>)
- the video shows all the "public spaces" are "flexible", with activities such as public concert arenas, vast food and retail spaces, and a fashion catwalk.
- In the video configuration, only 2,000m² – less than 10% of Ultimo's exhibition space – (see details below) are dedicated to the Powerhouse collections (an exhibition of space exploration). The concept falls somewhere between a "Carriage Works West" and a commercial shopping centre.
- Zero space is dedicated to collection storage and curation (which defines a museum).
- Parts of the Powerhouse collections will be stored at Castle Hill, while larger items will be sent to museums with inadequate conservation facilities.

And these questions still remain:

- How the construction of a multi-purpose centre in Parramatta equates to the destruction of an internationally renowned museum?
- How, in the current difficult climate, can the Government justify spending \$1.5-2.0 billion of public funds on a project nobody wants, when a fraction of this sum would give Parramatta the cultural facility it needs and deserves?
- How can the Government argue that this will create jobs? Any alternative investment of up to \$2 billion on Arts and Culture in NSW, especially developing regional museums, would create far more jobs than this destructive project, with 95 jobs already at stake in Ultimo
- what are the underlying dark interests keeping this project alive despite universal condemnation, including from Berejiklian's own Cabinet members?

The eagerly-awaited 2020 Parliamentary Inquiry may yet produce some answers, and don't forget that the June 30 closure date of the Ultimo museum is just another step along the way, NOT the end.

There is still time and room to halt this shameful, pointless project – and we will. Write to your MP, the Premier and her Ministers to make your voice heard!

Save the Powerhouse

PARRAMATTA MILKCRATE AREAS

Save the Powerhouse, 10-06-2020

Only 3 floors
(5,100m² = less than 1/4 of Ultimo) have museum AA climate control !

Roof Garden	
Fashion Catwalk	2122m ²
Space Exhibition	2122m ²
Food Retail Kids Playground	2759m ²
Accomodation	
Offices	
Library/Computer Room	1182m ²
Cafe/Restaurant	1182m ²
Playground/kids space	1486m ²
Modern Art Display ?	1486m ²
Entertainment Theatre	1486m ²
Entrance/Technical/ Small Display?	

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NOT THE POWERHOUSE, NOT EVEN A MUSEUM !

- According to Architect Moreau Kusunoki's animation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPrUffGpeos>

only the first floor of the East Building is dedicated to Powerhouse Museum collections.

All other floors have unrelated (mostly non-museum) activities.

- The Powerhouse collection "presence" in Parramatta (2,122m²) will therefore be less than 1/10th of the Ultimo total exhibition space (21,400m²)

- No space at all is dedicated to collection storage and curation!