

Labor

MEDIA RELEASE

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**POWERHOUSE – FIVE YEARS LATER AND THE BEREJIKILIAN
GOVERNMENT APPROVES PROJECT LATE ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON –
LABOR CALLS FOR FINANCIAL UPDATE ON CONTROVERSIAL PROJECT**

NSW Labor today called on the Berejiklian Government to break its silence on the Powerhouse Museum and reveal its true cost – after the controversial project was given the official “green light” late yesterday (February 12) afternoon.

The news comes ahead of embattled Arts Minister Don Harwin being called before a parliamentary inquiry into the debacle on Monday.

NSW Labor Leader Jodi McKay has called on the Berejiklian Government to release a financial update on the controversial project – showing the real cost of

“This project has lurched from crisis to crisis and is shrouded in secrecy,” Ms McKay said.

“We now discover that after five years, it has been given official approval late on a Friday afternoon. This whole process stinks.”

NSW Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for the Arts Walt Secord said the Berejiklian Government slipped out the announcement late Friday afternoon because the project is “riddled with problems”.

“So many problems swirl around this project ... It is going on a flood plain; it is going to see the destruction of heritage at Parramatta; it is the subject of green bans and financial costs are spiralling out of control.

“In 2016, the then-Premier Mike Baird said it would cost \$10 million to move the Powerhouse Museum and in June 2020, the Berejiklian Government admitted that it expected the net cost to be \$840 million.

“This whole scenario would be funny, but the NSW taxpayer is footing the bill. The only winner in this project so far have been the consultants. The Powerhouse Museum has been a consultants feast. After five years, not a shovel has cracked the soil at Parramatta and not a single construction job created, but we have seen the Berejiklian Government splurging more than \$46 million on consultants on this project.”

As documents tabled in the NSW Parliament in June 2020 revealed, \$46 million has been spent on consultants at the Powerhouse Museum.

SATURDAY 13/02/2021

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