

Powerhouse Museum Alliance



20th March 2021

PRESS CONFERENCE / MEDIA RELEASE

PARRAMATTA POWERHOUSE SITE FLOODED YET AGAIN!

For the second time in 13 months the Powerhouse Parramatta site is inundated with fast flowing flood waters, breaching the riverbank and symbolically washing away the Powerhouse Parramatta site construction banners, sending them swirling downstream.

The February 2020 flood was a rare one in 20 year event they said. And just over a year later this flood looks like it will be even higher. The torrent of floodwaters across the museum site highlights the reckless stupidity of the Government pushing ahead with the museum project that will put treasures of NSW at risk.

Museum and flood experts have long warned of the obvious and unacceptable risk to museum visitors and irreplaceable collections. Community groups including the North Parramatta Residents Action Group have lobbied for the 26ha Cumberland Hospital precinct 900metres away for a Museum of NSW, supported by the Powerhouse Museum Alliance.

An ill-conceived thought bubble is destroying Parramatta's heritage and putting the Powerhouse Museum collection at risk when there is a better site. Willow Grove is on death row, awaiting demolition, despite community resistance and union solidarity to save it.

“It is difficult to understand the intransigence of the Berejiklian Government approving the Parramatta museum development in a known flood zone, with a design which will have high velocity flood waters 2-3m deep flowing underneath the building. After spending millions on consultants, the Government still can't demonstrate that the development will be safe for visitors or the museum's collections.” **Kylie Winkworth - PMA**

“The exorbitant costs of the flooding Parramatta riverbank site development mount up - \$1.5bn and counting. This is an outrageous waste of public money when communities across NSW are reeling from fire, flood, drought, mice plagues, and stark inequalities in health, education and cultural funding.” **Jennifer Sanders, PMA**

“The river levels flooding the Powerhouse site today mirror the height of the State governments stubbornness to concede this is the wrong site for Parramatta's long awaited museum – on many levels” Its not too late for Minister for Planning, Rob Stokes to grab the reigns of this runaway horse and lead the Government's cultural commitment to save the 26 ha Cumberland Hospital precinct – which is high and dry today.” **Suzette Meade, Spokesperson NPRAG**

PRESS CONFERENCE – SUNDAY 21st MARCH 2021 – 1030am
34 Phillip Street, Parramatta @ WILLOW GROVE
Joined by David Shoebridge – Greens and Darren Greenfield - CFMEU

SUZETTE MEADE – Spokesperson NPRAG - 0412 990 880

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