

3 May, 2021

'Majority of Western Sydney voters haven't heard about Willow Grove: Poll'

later as **'Majority of Western Sydney voters back new Powerhouse'** on line; and in print as:

'Power of the People: Residents back Parra museum'

James O'Doherty, Daily Telegraph, 3 May 2021

The Powerhouse Museum's move to Parramatta has been given an emphatic tick of approval by Western Sydney, with more than half of residents vowing to attend the new attraction and nearly three quarters adamant the area needs more cultural institutions.

The results of a new survey come as it is revealed a whopping two-thirds of Western Sydney voters have not even heard of the historic Willow Grove building at Parramatta — which is due to be relocated to make way for the new museum — and only 14 per cent have ever visited the site. That is despite residents' groups staunch opposition to a State Government plan to move the 19th Century villa.

More than half of voters surveyed in a YouGov poll commissioned on behalf of the Western Sydney Powerhouse Community Alliance said they would likely attend the new Powerhouse Museum, while 72 per cent believed Western Sydney needs more cultural institutions.

Asked for their opinion about the location of the new Powerhouse, almost 40 per cent of respondents agreed that the river bank in Parramatta's CBD is the best place for the museum, while 26 per cent disagreed and 36 per cent were unsure.

Opponents of the current location argue the site is prone to flooding, although the government has stressed measures have been put in place to ensure there is no risk to the museum.

Only a third of people surveyed in the poll were "aware" of Willow Grove.

The state government continues to face vocal opposition against its plan to relocate Willow Grove for the new museum. Unions have placed a so-called "green ban" on the site, effectively preventing its demolition.

However Western Sydney Powerhouse Community Alliance Chair Chris Brown said the YouGov polling showed "the numbers are in" for the Powerhouse to go ahead at the Willow Grove site.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/two-thirds-of-western-sydney-voters-havent-heard-about-willow-grove-poll/news-story/c59d135d30f54aec8822f07661b97450>