



MEDIA RELEASE

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WEEP FOR WILLOW GROVE

In what can only be described as a coward move the Berejiklian government has used the Covid Crisis to start the desecration of the Willow Grove site. While the community is unable to gather to defend and protect Willow Grove as Parramatta is under strict lockdown and a Covid Curfew.

NPRAG has spent 4 years battling to save Parramatta's much-loved heritage to be incorporated into a much-deserved museum.

The CFMEUs principled stand to place a Greenban supporting the huge community groundswell has forced the government to save the 1880s St George Terraces and redesign the Powerhouse Parramatta project to incorporate this last remaining example of this architecture in our CBD streetscape.

It is, however, incomprehensible that the government has refused to redesign the project to also retain the heritage listed Victorian Italianate Villa, Willow Grove. This will set a dangerous precedent for the future of heritage all over NSW.

Suzette Meade NPRAG Spokesperson said "We do not support Willow Groves relocation as a win for heritage and firmly believe it will lose all heritage significance when its removed from where it was built over a century ago."

Meade stated. "There has been nothing but total disrespect to Parramatta's heritage under the Berejiklian government. The Berejiklian government is a serial offender when it comes to outrageous heritage crimes in Parramatta. The people of Parramatta will not forgive or forget. Democracy is dead when our government ignores all experts advice and community opinion"

"To the people all over NSW that donated money to the Willow Grove court case, tied a heart on the fence, made signs and marched beside us – we thank you for your strong stand to demand better for our country's heritage.

Suzette Meade said "NPRAG thanks the CFMEU and their members for their support and actions, bringing the May Day March to Parramatta demonstrated the union movements commitment to community and our heritage.