



Media Release – 24/02/2022

CALLS FOR PERROTETT TO PULL THE HAND BRAKE ON HARWINS PLEASURE PALACE IN PARRAMATTA

This week a minor deluge over only 70mm rain saw the banks of Parramatta River inundate the proposed Powerhouse Parramatta construction site. It's a well-known local sight annually to see a downpour of rain double this amount that would fill the former David Jones carpark site. Social media pages were overflowing with comments from locals asking why is the government not listening to us – this is the wrong site.

North Parramatta Residents Action Group have been advocating since 2016 for a Museum Of NSW to be funded in the state government owned 26ha Cumberland Hospital Precinct just 950m north of the flood prone site – that would celebrate the Dharug and migratory narratives of Parramatta.

NPRAG call on the Premier to minimise the build plans on the Parramatta River site before the build starts- to just one tower on street level to house the conference centre and kitchen auditorium facilities announced this month. Then open up the riverbank to a much need public park for civic events as City of Parramatta council had always planned as part of their Civic Link.

NPRAG were also very disappointed at what seemed to be a total absence of site containment of construction soil by Powerhouse contractor Lend Lease. Huge amounts of soil were washed into the river, a notification was made to Department of Planning.

“Premier Perrotett could put a stop to Harwins’ pleasure palace in Parramatta – he just needs to pull the hand brake” said Ms Meade Secretary of NPRAG

“There is very little community support for this project, if Domenic Perrotett wanted to really show his government is listening to the community of Parramatta, he would make a visionary call to redirect the museum funding to deliver a cultural precinct that the community actually want beside the female convict site – that doesn’t flood.” Meade added.

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