

Save our Powerhouse Museum!

The Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo is being split up – Parramatta is not a museum – Ultimo will be nothing like the people’s museum that we know and love.

Our Powerhouse Museum is being disappeared, replaced by a so called ‘Ultimo Creative Industries Precinct’ of fashion and design. The Transport exhibition has been stripped out, the Museum’s technology icons: No 1 Locomotive, the 1785 Boulton & Watt engine, the Steam Revolution exhibition, the Catalina, the Flight of Aircraft and Space are all at risk of removal. The magnificent Wran Building and Galleria, landmarks of the award winning Powerhouse Museum, are at risk of demolition

The Powerhouse Museum’s best practice, essential museum workspaces, including its impressive workshop in the Harwood Building (old Ultimo Tram Depot), are being replaced with subsidised studios for ‘creatives’ and ‘artists’ - seriously? Museum professionals - curators, conservators, registrars, exhibition designers etc - the Museum’s collection store, conservation facilities, library and archives – all this and more, are being moved off site to distant, less accessible Castle Hill, risking the Museum’s valuable collection.

The former Ultimo Power House is uniquely suitable for the Museum’s much loved transport, science and technology exhibitions which are **essential to the complete Powerhouse Museum** – not just fashion.



THE GOVERNMENT’S PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE OF NSW, WHO LOBBIED SO HARD FOR THEIR MUSEUM TO BE SAVED, IS BROKEN.

On **4 July 2020**, then Treasurer, now Premier Dominic Perrottet announced: *‘Sydney’s Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo will continue to welcome visitors to the world renowned exhibits, with the NSW Government announcing today that it will remain open and operate alongside the new state-of-the-art facility being planned for Western Sydney.*

....This is about recognizing the passion and hard work that has created the Powerhouse and ensuring the vision for a bigger, brighter future is realised’.

NO - the Museum has been stripped of signature objects and loved exhibitions. Recent displays have sparse labelling, little interpretation and, ‘artist’ commissions with little relevance or appeal to the Museum’s core audiences, especially families and school groups.



Locomotive No. 1
(Photos from Google)



Penny farthing cycle



Boiler Hall in all its glory – pre demolition

From a 2020 talk to the Committee for Sydney - the Museum's current CEO's statement for the future of Ultimo: 'BOLD IN THE FACE OF CONSTRAINT - ignore the weight of history, language and architecture.'

In other words: **CANCEL THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM!**

At an exorbitant cost of \$500m, the Powerhouse Museum is being morphed into another contemporary arts experience, revealing that Government has a profound lack of understanding and is ignorant of the purpose of the Museum. It is being destroyed with no regard for the people of NSW, nor for its pre-eminent role as NSW's **Museum of Applied Arts and Applied Sciences**. A **museum of our history** exploring your past to better understand the present so we can imagine the future. For \$250m, the Museum can be renewed as promised.

PLEASE TELL THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION THAT:

1. You want your entire Powerhouse Museum, as promised by the Premier on 4 July 2020, renewed as **THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM** with its full range of exhibitions across transport, power, technology, social history, design and decorative arts with interactives and programs for kids and families - the peoples' museum valued and loved by generations – making good on the Premier's 4 July 2020 promise.
2. You don't agree with the Powerhouse Museum being replaced by the Ultimo Creative Industries Precinct – the so called 'Powerhouse Ultimo'. Sydney doesn't need the Powerhouse Museum to be hijacked for yet another contemporary arts precinct!
 - **Email or write to the Premier Dominic Perrottet**
[Contact the Premier](#) OR write to Suite 303, Level 3, 51 Rawson St, Epping 2121
 - **Email or write to Minister for the Arts** [Contact the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Regional Youth](#)
 - **Email or write to Minister for Heritage** [Contact the Minister for Environment and Heritage](#)
 - **Email or write to Leader of the Opposition Chris Minns** kogarah@parliament.nsw.gov.au
 - **Email or write to Shadow Minister for Arts, Heritage** walt.secord@parliament.nsw.gov.au
 - **Contact your local Member:**
<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/all-members.aspx>

For background, see also: <https://powerhousemuseumalliance.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/savethepowerhouse/>