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Save the Powerhouse Museum savethepowerhouse@gmail.com circulated this report of the Powerhouse Museum Alliance's 'Unfinished Business' forum:

LIVELY PARLIAMENT HOUSE MEETING REIGNITES "SAVE PHM" CAMPAIGN

Hi Everyone,

Our long-term campaign partners, the Powerhouse Museum Alliance, gave fresh momentum to the eight year battle to save the Powerhouse, by holding a productive discussion meeting in Parliament House to "mark completion of the Select Committee report on the Government's Management of the Powerhouse Museum and other museum and cultural projects in NSW"

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/inquiries/2582/Powerhouse%20Museum%20and%20other%20museums%20and%20cultural%20projects%20in%20New%20South%20Wales.pdf>

The timing of their forum, "UNFINISHED BUSINESS," on November 16 in Parliament House, Jubilee Room, made it possible for politicians from both Houses to accept invitations to talk briefly about their perspectives on the Powerhouse.

The opening speaker was MLC ROBERT BORSAK (HSF), who, as the highly-regarded Chair of the investigative Select Committee, ably led two lengthy Parliamentary inquiries into the Government's handling of the Museum's veiled history.

In the forum, Borsak gave a detailed account of the Committee's many useful findings, as shown in the report, but freely conceded that it was "unfinished business ...we 've (still) got a long way to go as far as I am concerned. **We need to put technology back into the museum...**" Many questions remain unanswered, he said, above all the big "WHY?" What first triggered the proposal to "move the Powerhouse" in 2015, and why has the Government since followed an apparently uncontrollable path to the brink of the Museum's destruction? In a well-received conclusion he pledged that if he wins at the NSW elections next March, he will "start again" and seek to prolong or renew the Inquiry in an effort to finally reveal the truth.

The next speaker MLC WALT SECORD (Labor) who is stepping down from Parliament at the end of this session, was an exceptionally persistent and courageous Select Committee member. In the forum he traced the Powerhouse saga in detail, describing it as a "matter that has been frustrating, amazing...and surprising." notably because there had been no recognised business process - "Business plan? There is NO business plan...**we are still waiting for a business plan!**"

MLA JAMIE PARKER,(Greens) who is also leaving the NSW Parliament, has supported the Save the Powerhouse campaign from the outset, both in the Lower House and in his Balmain constituency. He spoke with conviction of the Inquiry's achievements - "(It went) back to basics on what this was actually all about: **it was originally intended as a real estate deal to assist in pork-barrelling of a marginal seat in Parramatta**", and of the campaign itself - "**(what) mobilised people so powerfully was...the level of disrespect for all the people involved...** The proposed move was so dramatic that (it) underscored the worst excesses of the Coalition."

He agreed there is "unfinished business...that needs to be taken to the election," observing that "we know the position of the Government. What we need is a position from Labor. We want a clear difference between the Coalition and Labor."

Following expert commentaries from established Museum experts with strong links to the Powerhouse including

- Troy Wright, Assistant General Secretary, PSA
- Debbie Rudder, Former PHM Curator, Energy
- Ian Debenham, Former PHM Curator, Aviation
- Andrew Grant, Former PHM Senior Curator, Transport
- Robert Hannan, NSW Chair, Australiana Society
- Tom Lockley, Former PHM Volunteer

The forum heard from an unscheduled, but welcome, politician, Tim James (Liberal, who earlier replaced Gladys Berejiklian in the seat of Willoughby) Speaking powerfully, he said “ I understand and respect where you are coming from...and I want you to know that I am taking this up to the Minister Ben Franklin. We are seeking a meeting with the Minister...and **I hope I can make a difference here.**” Encouraging words from a Government member!

Thanks and congratulations to PMA for a thought-provoking meeting, especially to Kylie Winkworth and Jennifer Sanders for their efficient organisation,

Hear the audio recording of the meeting at <https://youtu.be/yFVjUHStRfl> with apologies for the poor sound quality.

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