

Unfinished Business:

A forum marking the release of the Select Committee report on the *Government's Management of the Powerhouse Museum and other museum and cultural projects in NSW*; and recent developments and unfinished business from museum issues highlighted in the report

Wednesday 16 November 2022
9.00 am-11.00 am. Tea & coffee from 8.30am
Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Macquarie St

Presented by the Powerhouse Museum Alliance

9.00 – 9.15 Welcome to our host and Committee Chair the Hon. Robert Borsak MLC
Vote of thanks from the PMA

9.15 – 9.30 Short speeches from invited MLCs and MPs, subject to Parliamentary sitting week obligations including the Hon. Walt Secord MLC, and the Hon. Jamie Parker MP

9.30 – 10.20 Five minute papers responding to the Select Committee report findings, recommendations, evidence, as well as unfinished business arising from the report and recent developments in our now eight year campaign to save the Powerhouse Museum. Speakers include Jennifer Sanders, Andrew Grant, Ian Debenham, Debbie Rudder, Tom Lockley, Robert Hannan and Suzette Meade

10.20 – 10.50 A panel discussion and Q & A forum

10.50 Conclusion and thanks to everyone who has worked to save the PHM

The papers will be published as expert commentary on the Powerhouse Museum Alliance website. Keep up to date with the latest news at <https://powerhousemuseumalliance.com/> and with our friends at Save the Powerhouse <https://www.facebook.com/savethepowerhouse/>

Below: findings and recommendations from the Legislative Council Select Committee report on the *Government's Management of the Powerhouse Museum, and other museums and cultural projects in NSW*, September 2022

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

Findings

Finding 1

That the NSW Government's removal of Willow Grove from its original site has had a significant and cumulative heritage impact.

Finding 2

That, when or if the NSW Government reconstructs Willow Grove on its new site, the resulting structure will not be the same Willow Grove.

Finding 3

That the NSW Government's current plans for Powerhouse Parramatta are more akin to an events centre than a museum.

Finding 4

That the NSW Government's plan to break up the museum's collections and strip items of context will diminish their significance as collections and adversely impact their interpretation.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

That, given the removal of Willow Grove has already taken place despite widespread community opposition, the NSW Government commit to honouring the memory of Willow Grove by erecting a Blue Plaque on its former site.

Recommendation 2

That the NSW Government, in retaining and adaptively reusing St George's Terrace as part of Powerhouse Parramatta, commit to retaining their original internal separations as terraces and restoring their original features.

Recommendation 3

That, in implementing the flood-related conditions of consent issued as part of the State Significant Development Application determination, the NSW Government:

- address all outstanding flood-related issues and concerns highlighted by the detailed analyses submitted in evidence to this inquiry; and
- re-test the flood immunity of the Powerhouse Parramatta (both riverine and overland flooding) using the new City of Parramatta Council Parramatta River flood study based on the 2019 Australian Rainfall and Runoff guidelines.

Recommendation 4

That the NSW Government release the *Powerhouse Parramatta Final Business Case 2020* and the *Ultimo Creative Industries Precinct Final Business Case 2021*, as well as any other business cases, conservation management plans, and precinct master plans for any aspect of the project (Parramatta, Ultimo and Castle Hill) that are not already in the public domain.

Recommendation 5

That the NSW Government publicly and specifically outline its strategy to minimise the risk of damage posed to large and fragile items by moving them from their existing location to Powerhouse Parramatta.

Recommendation 6

That the NSW Government, as part of the renewal of the Ultimo museum, commit to:

- retaining the Harwood Building in its current form with museum-related, non-commercial uses, and
- investigate the feasibility of adapting its storage spaces to better facilitate public access to collections in 'display storage' conditions.

Recommendation 7

That the NSW Government progress, on a priority basis, the National Trust of Australia nomination to list the entire Ultimo site on the State Heritage Register and make representations to the Heritage Council of NSW to flag this as a government priority.

Recommendation 8

That the NSW Government review the current funding arrangements for regional museums and galleries, with consideration of:

- how to ensure greater certainty of funding for regional museums and galleries, and
- whether a library funding model would be an appropriate way to fund regional museums and galleries in New South Wales.

Recommendation 9

That the NSW Government develop a statewide museum and galleries strategy, which should include consideration of how to improve access to state collections by regional museums and galleries.

Legislative Council; Select Committee report on the *Government's Management of the Powerhouse Museum and other museum and cultural projects in NSW*, September 2022