

23 February 2023

[Save the Powerhouse \(Facebook\)](#)

PHM "RENEWAL" STAGE 1 (SSD-32927319 - CONCEPT PROPOSAL) APPROVED TODAY

Following our complaints to the Department of Planning (our letters of 11th <http://tiny.cc/n6n4vz> and 18th <http://tiny.cc/o6n4vz> of February) and our publication of the 19th of February ("Is the NSW Government above the law?"), the Department has announced this morning that their SSD-32927319 - Stage 1 Concept Proposal) <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/.../powerhouse...> is approved <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/powerhouse-ultimo-renewal>

This represents an advance of 3 steps of the DA process (Complete Assessment, Recommendation and Determination) in a single day and attempts to justify, after the event, the "Prepare for SEARs" current status of SSD-54612708 - Stage 2 Detailed Application <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/.../powerhouse...>

It does not justify however the current "Community Consultations" which started yesterday 22nd of February and will end on the 2nd of March, the day before the Caretaker Period starts.

Community consultation must only take place during the Exhibition period, when the public has been fully informed about the project by the SEARs, the EIS and the documents exhibited. All of these are still to be produced.

Given that all planning decisions are legally frozen during a Caretaker Period this announcement may be disappointing but is certainly not the end of the fight to Save the Powerhouse.

This will continue until the 25th of March - your opportunity to change the NSW Government.

Save the Powerhouse, 23 February, 2023

DA Stage 1: Concept Proposal	DA Stage 2: Detailed Application
https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/powerhouse-ultimo-renewal	https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/powerhouse-ultimo-renewal-detailed-application
Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal	Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal - Detailed application

- The DA Process jumped from Assessment Stage 1 (1) to Stage 1 Determined (2) on 23 February. Three steps in a single day!

- This "justifies", after the event, Stage 2 Prepare SEARs (3) but does not justify the current "Community Consultation" (4) which cannot take place before the SEARs and EIS Stages are completed.

Note: *it is essential that the community should be fully informed (SEARs, EIS, Exhibition) before being consulted to enable them to form an objective opinion. Currently only sketchy views of the winning design have been provided, the Community has not been formally advised on the final intended use of the "renewed" buildings, the Architect's competition brief has not been published and the unsuccessful Architect's submissions are still kept secret.*