

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE POWERHOUSE

Australia's major Museum of arts and sciences in Sydney's most evocative heritage building.

14 May 2023

Bulletin 87: More action needed...

If you want to save THE Powerhouse MUSEUM in its present building, retain the heritage of the Bicentennial celebrations and incidentally save a quarter of a million dollars of public money, please click on [Save our Powerhouse](#) and this will lead you to a petition being organised by Kobi Shetty, who has followed our great supporter Jamie Parker as MLC for Balmain. Please do it NOW!

You will get an acknowledgement that you can send to everyone else you can.

We have been involved in this matter for over eight years. From 2015, many of us remember the full-page advertisements from the Museum / Arts establishment and especially the massive petition that forced the parliamentary inquiries of 2016-2019 and 2020-2022. It would be wonderful if this petition was as well supported!

So this is the latest news:

John Graham, the NSW Minister for the Arts, met with Lionel Glendinning, Jennifer Sanders and Lindsay Sharp on Friday afternoon. Jennifer reports that 'there was good and frank discussion across the key issues', and it is great to see that at last, people with museum expertise are being heard. Many details cannot be divulged, but it is clear that our representatives presented a compelling case for the saving of THE Powerhouse MUSEUM along the lines indicated in the Powerhouse Museum Alliance manifesto, attached.

However, the new Government is still under pressure to continue with the current plans of the preceding Government. Despite the constant assurances that there would be future consultations, it seems that the argument is being made that the Ultimo project is too advanced to be stopped. If so, one would think that the legalities of this situation should be investigated!

The Powerhouse Museum Alliance concludes that **'it is critically important that we continue to make a strong case for the Powerhouse Museum, the entire site including the Harwood Building, to be saved as promised.** The program of work commissioned by the previous government **is still progressing** as reported in the media: the Development Application is to be submitted in a month'. The plan is for demolition is to commence at the end of the year, and the opening of whatever the final result will be some years hence.

However, the Minister has promised that there will be no further degradation of the museum until he has the outcomes of a proper investigation of the situation. As a result of wide discussions over the weekend, I have written to the minister assuring him that we stand ready to assist in any possible way.

Massive amounts of data are already available for analysis. Principally, the two legislative council Inquiries have demonstrated grave flaws in the process, but the Government has treated their findings and recommendations with contempt. Data has been gathered over the years in many ways, as is recorded in the massive Powerhouse Museum Alliance website and the Save the Powerhouse Facebook site. The Government archives are also available to the incoming administration.

The outcome for the museum is important, but there is an even more important principle: that of the survival of Australian democracy. This investigation must ask basic questions and lead to an informed consensus. Government secrecy, equivocation and misleading information must no longer prevail.

Thanks for all the input over the weekend from several sources. There will be more news as it comes to hand!

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<https://powerhousemuseumalliance.com/>

See also: <https://www.facebook.com/savepowerhousemuseum/>

<https://www.facebook.com/savethepowerhouse/> <https://maasbusinesscase.com/>

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