

Email sent from Tom Lockley Fri, 30 Jun, 13:13 to Department of Premier and Cabinet and to the Minister for the Arts (by email form submission) and to Mr Hughes as representative of the Minister for the Arts,

I write on behalf of the large number of people who have been working for many years to gather evidence of the scandal of the previous Government's actions regarding the Powerhouse Museum. Based on recent feedback from our email group and others, I need to underline our continuing concern at the present situation, which is persisting even as we approach 100 days since you won the election.

In two massive Legislative Council Inquiries and uncountable other interactions with the previous Government, we have developed massive amounts of evidence of uninformed, secret and dysfunctional decision-making on this extremely important project. This begins with the ludicrous initial financial rationale propounded in 2014 and has continued for eight years: we have demonstrated that throughout there has been negligible use of people with appropriate museum expertise in the basic decision-making process. We have taken part in numerous consultations, only to have the basic thrust of our reasoned and learned input ignored. We have presented evidence of duplicitous circumvention of proper bureaucratic processes and again this has been ignored. Our experts, led by the National Trust, have asserted that heritage has been trashed and that this is not just a disgrace to Australia's reputation as a cultured nation, but also another instance of financial incompetence: heritage does have a financial value. There is copious evidence of excessive secrecy of the previous Government which has served to conceal these major flaws of process.

There is thus clear evidence of a situation in which the democratic traditions of our state have been gravely corrupted.

We had confidently expected that the situation of the Powerhouse Museum would, by now, have been examined to verify these matters. This is a relatively simple process. All the necessary documents should be available to you, as the new Government, with a couple of mouse clicks. Attached is a basic list of what is needed, and a response to even some of these would be a considerable advance towards providing the open government that is the hallmark of democracy.

Your Government has promised that the current project will be reassessed before a decision is made on the future of the museum. However, it seems that the minions of the previous Government are still working on preparing the next 'consultation' step towards a DA while continuing to ignore our previous input. They are even denying us access to the design brief and design competition outcomes which would enable properly informed expert input.

The purpose of this email is to express extreme disappointment at the current state of affairs. We fear that the longer it persists, the more difficult it will be to halt the momentum of the current program. We assert that if the previous Government's policy is indeed carried out, the best possible outcome will be the further degradation of one of the world's great museums and a complete waste of money, in this case at least another quarter of a billion dollars.

We would appreciate a clear and unambiguous statement that all work that progresses the previous Government's project will be halted until their plans are properly assessed, and that this assessment is proceeding urgently.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Tom Lockley