

17 January, 2024

(Request circulated by Des Griffin AM; former director of Australian Museum, NSW)

**Subject: PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION TO SAVE
THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM**

Save the Powerhouse

The Labor Government has taken advantage of the end of the year break to announce the closure of the Powerhouse Museum on February 5, 2024 and plans to redevelop it as a completely different centre.

In response, the Save the Powerhouse Campaign, Pyrmont Action Inc. and Friends of Ultimo have joined forces to mount a petition <https://chnq.it/HWYWPscJBD> calling on The Hon. John Graham, Minister for the Arts, to HONOUR HIS PROMISES to the people of New South Wales.

The Powerhouse Museum does NOT need to be closed. It needs to be repaired and renewed in a staged genuine heritage revitalisation developed in consultation with museum and heritage experts, and the public.

The Museum should be listed on the State Heritage Register. The wasteful, risky and permanent removal of signature exhibitions like Steam Revolution - a core science and technology experience – must be stopped.

The NSW Labor Government has broken all the promises concerning the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo. Three stand out:

1, *Only Labor will save the Powerhouse Museum (Media Release (22 March 2023) "A NSW Labor government will release key details of the plans for the Ultimo and Parramatta sites that until now have been kept secret"*: Not a single document has been released. Instead of saving the Museum the Labor Government is delivering the former Government's scheme. Worse, without consultation, it plans to downsize and redevelop the Museum "as a creative industries, arts and entertainment centre with some occasional exhibitions"!

- [John Graham's message](#) to Save's public meeting on October 28, 2022 <http://tiny.cc/uujjvz>: "Congratulations to you all on the 8 years of your community campaign to keep this iconic museum in Ultimo and save its collection. It is because of the work of Save the Powerhouse, the Powerhouse Museum Alliance and the Friends of Ultimo that the (Coalition) government has been forced into backing down...I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE FUTURE

on this important campaign: that was the last time we (or any community group) had any contact with the Minister!

2, We promised at the election that we would ...keep the Powerhouse Museum open" (Media Release 2 September 2023): "Powerhouse Ultimo will close its doors on February 5, 2024" according to the "Powerhouse" website. If the Museum closes in February it will not re-open for many years (2033 according to budget papers).

The closure is completely unjustified - Labor's, still secret, "Revitalisation" project will not be ready for months and the NSW Government has budgeted less than half of its estimated \$250M cost over the next 4 years. Museum experts advise that necessary maintenance and repairs to the building can easily be carried out while keeping the Museum open.

3, We want a museum which builds on the traditional focus on science, engineering, transport, technical arts and education, that will be world class in line with planning and community expectations and a centre of excellence, and in a way that recognises it as a flagship location (Media release 22 March 2023):

a creative industries centre is being developed; assertions of excellence, world class, community expectations are meaningless.

If you want to keep the Museum open beyond February 5, 2024, and not allow the removal of the permanent exhibitions to storage at least until a "Heritage Revitalisation" project is developed in full consultation with experts, relevant community groups and the public, and is ready to be implemented

please

SIGN OUR PETITION <https://chng.it/HWYWPscJBD> and share it with your family and friends.

THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM IS NOT SAVED! As of 15 January 3,500 people have signed.