

## LABOR'S ACTIONS (ARE) AN HISTORIC BETRAYAL OF TRUST

Save the Powerhouse Museum <savethepowerhouse@gmail.com>

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Hi everyone,

Read Arts Critic John McDonald's Newsletter of January 16

<https://www.johnmcdonald.net.au/2024/newsletter-524/>

"Imagine how crushing and depressing it is when Labor comes to power, having promised to save the museum and usher in a new transparency, but decides instead to continue the same short-sighted, **VANDALISTIC PROGRAM**. The appalling behaviour of the previous administration is being repeated with the added garnish of **FULL-SCALE TREACHERY**. It's not possible to put a positive spin on Labor's actions: this is an **HISTORIC BETRAYAL OF TRUST, A SHEAF OF BROKEN PROMISES, and AN ACT OF POLITICAL BASTARDRY** that will have disastrous long-term consequences for the cultural heritage of city, state and country.

...The fact that the Arts Minister, John Graham is now saying the PHM Ultimo will be closed for three years from the end of February, is a direct contradiction of his previous promise to keep the museum open. **HAS THIS MAN NO SHAME?** He is working in the interests of the developers, of the University of Technology's expansionist ambitions, and the grand schemes of current PHM management, which are guaranteed to send attendances through the floor and create budgetary black holes for decades to come.

...Now it seems Graham is right on board with this way of thinking, adding enthusiastic endorsements to press releases for hip hop festivals and other ephemeral events, while multiple damage reports about the collection are swept under the carpet.

This is beyond stupidity, beyond political expediency. It's utterly amoral. It shows **SUPREME CONTEMPT FOR THOSE WHO VOTED FOR LABOR IN THE EXPECTATION IT WOULD HALT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PHM, AS PROMISED**. What can one say about politicians who make promises to win elections and quickly contradict them?

...Governments will have **SPENT UPWARDS OF \$2 BILLION** to achieve a negative result, when an initial investment of \$400 million would have probably been enough to give Ultimo a face lift and build a new museum or gallery in Parramatta. History will look back at this project as our **GREATEST-EVER CULTURAL DISASTER**...In world terms, it's a complete embarrassment. What major city destroys its own cultural assets? Take away a major museum, put up a hip hop festival.

...If the major parties are not simply corrupt, they are corrupt in spirit, preferring to cuddle up to the corporates rather than respond to matters of urgent public concern. Culturally, they are a bunch of barbarians who show no understanding of what is being lost, and no desire to find out. It's been a long time since the Coalition represented anyone but themselves and their mates, but the Minns government has shown that Labor is no better.

It's hardly a mystery as to why so many people feel disenfranchised by politicians and embrace forms of right-wing populism.

If you feel strongly about this issue, I encourage you to sign the on-line petition. It does at least show the government there's a substantial block of people who do not accept this new disaster as a *fait accompli*."

The Save the Powerhouse/Pymont Action Inc./Friends of Ultimo online petition has now reached **OVER 3,500 SIGNATURES** in just 3 weeks during the year-end holiday period. Sign it HERE <https://chnng.it/HWYWPscJBD> if you have not done so yet and encourage your family and friends to sign as well.

Although this follows the **ROZELLE INTERCHANGE MISMANAGEMENT NIGHTMARE**, it is not too late for the Minns Government to accept the **MASSIVE UNPOPULARITY** of the closing of the Museum in just 3 weeks' time (February 5) and reverse its **UNJUSTIFIED** decision in order to avoid a **SECOND MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EMBARRASSMENT**.

*Save the Powerhouse*

