



Save the Powerhouse Campaign  
[savethepowerhouse@gmail.com](mailto:savethepowerhouse@gmail.com)

To  
NSW Planning Department  
Attention Ms Jennie Yuan  
[Jennie.Yuan@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jennie.Yuan@planning.nsw.gov.au)

CC  
The Hon. Chris Minns, NSW Premier  
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/premier-of-nsw/contact-premier>  
The Hon. Penny Sharpe, Heritage Minister  
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-environment-heritage>  
The Hon. John Graham, Arts Minister  
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-roads-arts-music-and-night-time-economy-jobs-tourism>  
The Hon. Paul Scully, Planning Minister  
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-planning-and-public-spaces>  
The Hon. Daniel Mookhey, NSW Treasurer  
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/treasurer>  
The Hon. Kobi Shetty, Member for Balmain  
[balmain@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:balmain@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Ultimo, 18 January, 2025

RE: POWERHOUSE ULTIMO "REVITALISATION" STATE SIGNIFICANT PROJECT  
APPLICATION SSD-67588459

Dear Ms Yuan,

Further to our previous submissions regarding the referenced SSD Application we wish to note the following discrepancies between the revised scope of the project as now described on your Portal  
<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=EXH-70255721%2120240909T061931.822%20GMT> and the documents supplied by the Applicant in their "Response to Submissions".

The project scope reads "Revitalisation of the Powerhouse Ultimo museum, including –  
- Demolition of **NON-HERITAGE ELEMENTS** of Ultimo Powerhouse building  
- **PARTIAL** demolition of the Wran building  
- Adaptive reuse of heritage items, new museum spaces  
- New public spaces"

The documents supplied by the Applicant propose to -

1) Demolish **ALL** the intermediate floors constructed in the 1980s as part of the Sulman Prize-awarded "adaptive reuse" of the old Power Station into a world class Museum of Applied Arts and Science.

The "adaptive reuse", including these floors, is of **HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE** according to the findings of the Lovell Chen heritage assessment report

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=PAE-78154458%2120241218T053704.094%20GMT> commissioned by the City of Sydney.

**So this is the demolition of HERITAGE elements.**

2) Entirely demolish the Wran Building

Item H “Structural Sequencing Diagrams” document

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=EXH-70255721%2120240909T061931.822%20GMT> describes the complete demolition of the Wran building in 11 stages.

Only part of the roof framework, reduced in length, would remain and an entirely new concrete and brick structure would be built, covered by a new “round-shape” corrugated steel roof of similar appearance. **So, this is NOT PARTIAL demolition.**

3) To transform the luminous Galleria, “a tall, thin, barrel-vaulted linear volume echoing the tall, nave-like volumes of exhibition structures of the nineteenth century such as the Crystal Palace in London as well as train departure halls of the same period” (Lovell Chen page 34), into a brick-lined dungeon-like staircase



4) To reduce the existing 25 exhibition spaces of various sizes, for a total of 21,080m<sup>2</sup> to only 3 cavernous volumes, for a total of just over 5,000m<sup>2</sup> (less than a quarter!). **So, this is not the creation of new museum spaces but the destruction of over 15,000m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition area.** (eg. see above the transformation of the Galleria exhibition space into a staircase)

DECC, the demolition contractor appointed by Infrastructure NSW (INSW), started demolishing the canopy which links the Harwood Building to the rest of the Powerhouse Museum even though the Project is still under “Assessment” by your department. The demolition is classified as “early works construction”, a pretext to carry out works before the project is approved.

This belies the democratic process and reduces the NSW Planning Department to an “after-the-event” rubber stamping agency.

Our joint Pyrmont Action/Save the Powerhouse/Friends of Ultimo petition

<https://www.change.org/p/keep-the-powerhouse-museum-in-ultimo-open> has collected 9,500 signatures and will reach its 10,000 benchmark in the near future.

It also collected 466 comments, almost all of them opposing the “Revitalisation” and condemning the Government’s actions <http://tiny.cc/vma4001>

The Project is overwhelmingly unpopular and is seen for what it is, a vast waste of NSW taxpayers’ money.

It is inconceivable that a **FAIR** Assessment of a project so vehemently opposed by the public, the experts and respected organisations could recommend its approval. **It is time common sense prevailed.**

Thank you for your attention,

Patricia JOHNSON & Jean-Pierre ALEXANDRE  
Co-Convenors

*Save the Powerhouse*

