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

## **WRAN HERITAGE DESTRUCTION WILL SOON BE ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

Hi everyone,

The proposed modifications to the approved State Significant Development (SSD) Application are now on display on the NSW Government Portal website <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/modification-1-revised-structural-and-loading-strategy>.

The modifications include notably –

- The complete demolition of the Wran Building and Galleria (“**THE WRAN HERITAGE**”) and their replacement by a replica of a shape somewhat-similar to the original.
- The cancellation of the Macarthur Street underground loading dock and the re-integration of the Harwood Building to the project.

The Minister for Lands and Property’s excuse that “keeping the structures is not only unsafe and non-compliant, (but) it would cost the taxpayer more and give a limited warranty on the buildings” - Read Ministerial Media Release of 26 June

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/ministerial-media-releases/contract-awarded-for-powerhouse-museum-ultimo-revitalisation> ) - reminds us of the Arts Minister’s excuse for closing the Museum in February 2024. It used the photo of a crack in a stack to “demonstrate” that the building was unsafe when, in fact, the crack dated back from the first firing of the power plant, 120 years ago!

It is clear that -

- The Wran heritage structures were naturally designed according to codes available in the 1980s

- The steel structures were not designed to support all the bricks the inappropriate “revitalisation” design wants to load on them but to form two high “vaults” with “arched steel roof and glazed facades” (Heritage Council of NSW – 24 August 2024 <http://tiny.cc/ftso001> page 8)

Save cannot believe that the Heritage Council of NSW and Penny Sharpe, its Minister, who gazetted the “Powerhouse Museum Complex” state heritage-listing just a year ago (Gazette of 12 July 2024 [https://gazette.nsw.gov.au/gazette/2024/7/2024-7\\_268-gazette.pdf](https://gazette.nsw.gov.au/gazette/2024/7/2024-7_268-gazette.pdf) ) or the City of Sydney Council and its Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, who supported the project “in principle” subject to a revision of “the extent of intervention and whether this is an appropriate adaptive reuse”, could support the entire demolition of the 1980s extensions and their replacement by a “theme-park pastiche”.



Save queried why the Planning Portal page indicated that the SSD Modification status was "Prepare Mod Report" (one step before "Exhibition") while, at the same time, the first of its 10 attachments is entitled "Modification Report" and the Government's recent media release indicated that the modification would be on exhibition in the past week.

We received the following "reassuring" answer that –

- All of the files currently available on the NSW planning portal will be publicly exhibited.
- As a previous submitter on the original State Significant Development, you will be notified of the formal exhibition period.
- **The planning portal will be open to upload any submission you may wish to make during the exhibition period.**

Meanwhile the extent of damage inflicted on the rest of the Arts portfolio by wasting public funds on **mammoth white elephants** becomes more apparent with the Australian Design Centre and regional public galleries and museums defunded.

"Among the 76 applicants knocked back for four-year funding were more than a dozen regional public galleries" writes Linda Morris in SMH of 7 July

<https://www.smh.com.au/culture/art-and-design/we-got-nothing-axe-falls-on-galleries-and-the-state-s-only-design-centre-20250701-p5mbno.html>

Read also Kelly Burke in the Guardian of 1 July

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/jul/01/shock-to-creative-ecology-nsw-regional-art-galleries-face-funding-crisis-after-state-pulls-financial-support>

These vanity projects not only cost AUD billions to build but their operational costs will damage the Arts budget for decades.

**We welcome the new public exhibition as an opportunity to tell the NSW Government once again how inappropriate, unpopular, destructive and wasteful its project is and encourage you to do the same when the exhibition period is announced.**

**Meanwhile, keep reading these Posts!**

*Save the Powerhouse*

 **Savethepowerhouse**