

Neville Pleffer

Object

ROOTY HILL , New South Wales

Message

I strongly object to both the overall “Revitalisation” project and the currently exhibited Modification 1.

I have consistently opposed the various “Renewal” and “Revitalisation” schemes that have been advanced over the years by the same Museum Management/Create NSW/Infrastructure NSW team appointed by the previous Liberal Coalition Government. Their decisions have already seen the closure of the Museum, the removal of the Heritage Collection of Exhibits and the vandalism with the gutting of the internal structures of what was once a world renowned and respected Museum of Arts and Applied Sciences. Its closure has deprived me of being able to take my grandchildren to view the wonderful exhibits of our heritage and introduce them to and generate an interest in the world of science and technology as I did with my own children.

The proposed “Modification 1” calls for the complete demolition of the Wran Building and the Galleria which have been Heritage Listed. How can the proposed “Approximate Replica” built with different materials and substantially shorter be a retention of the heritage and character of the existing buildings. Overseas countries are able to maintain and retain their buildings which are much older (centuries) than the Wran Building and retain their character and heritage. Why is it, that we, with our relatively short heritage of European occupation, can’t retain what little heritage we have? The Powerhouse Museum Complex was State Heritage Listed in July 2024, including the Wran additions. What value does State Heritage Listing have if Government bodies won’t abide by them? It is an act of cultural vandalism.

Why demolish the existing buildings which are and then rebuild in a lesser format when previous Consultants’ Reports have indicated that the Museum could have been Restored and Revitalised without closure at a much reduced cost than the current proposals? The project represents poor value for public money.

Also most Government projects are having huge cost blow outs and time delays. The originally expected closure of the Museum of “UP TO” three years ago has already blown out to the end of 2029. Thank you very much. As an elderly gentleman in my seventies, this ongoing woeful saga of broken promises and “Revisions/ Rethinks” has deprived me of many enjoyable outings with my grandchildren to view the previous permanent exhibitions (Steam Revolution, Transport and Space, Locomotive No 1, etc) and generate their interest in Science and Technology. At this rate I doubt that I will ever get to see the Ultimo Powerhouse Museum returned to its former glory and enjoyment for the public.

I strongly object to the proposed modifications with the destruction of our Heritage buildings and the additional costs and time delays that will entail together with the greatly reduced exhibitions space.

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