

**THOMAS LOCKLEY**

**Object**

PYRMONT , New South Wales

**Message**

Re Powerhouse Ultimo Modification 1 - Additional demolition and rebuild of the Wran Building, removal of the loading dock and other internal and external changes

On page 5 of Section 4.55 (2) Modification Application in the executive summary the following modifications are listed:

- Removal of exhibition hoists and minor internal modifications throughout.

If this refers to the original overhead cranes in the 1899 building and the later power station they must not be removed. They are definitely part of the original fabric of the buildings, which is clearly protected by the recently obtained heritage assessment. Despite its many faults, principally the downgrading of the heritage of the museum, the current heritage assessment is very clear on this point.

This removal policy probably refers to the exhibition hoists in the transport hall and in the turbine hall which have been an integral part of the 1988 'adaptive reuse'. These supported, respectively, the spectacular aviation and space exhibits and such things as the Transavia Airtruk and the Cierva autogyro. The Government must not claim that these need to be removed for safety reasons: we can locate studies by eminent engineers and architects that demonstrate that they far exceed the standard required for this use and were in excellent condition. The only logical reason for the removal of these hoists is that no museum material will be suspended from the ceiling, thereby removing the spectacular displays which were a prominent feature of the former museum and which brilliantly made use of its soaring galleries.

As the Wran building is to be destroyed, the exhibition hoists will also be removed. It is noted that the renderings of the 'rejuvenated' Wran building depict a very unexciting space with no museum features, whereas the original building featured a wide range of exhibits of world significance, including the Lawrence Hargrave box kites and Dick Smith's helicopter hanging from the ceiling.

I suggest that the removal of the exhibition hoists is further evidence of the downgrading of the museum aspects of the proposed development. Accordingly, I oppose this so-called 'modification'.

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The Wran Building is the last vestige of the world award-winning adaptive reuse of the Ultimo Powerhouse. Thus, demolition and reconstruction of the Wran Building and Galleria comprises the final repudiation of the promises made by the Government before the last election. (See LABOR'S TEN BROKEN PROMISES ON THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM by world-renowned museum expert Kylie Winkworth, accessible from the entry for 17 February 2025 on <https://powerhousemuseumalliance.com/news-chronology-2025/> )

This submission is made to ensure that posterity will be aware that the whole project has been

pushed through by successive governments despite massive public opposition. This includes a consensus of museum professionals, eminent citizens and leaders in many relevant fields of engineering, architecture and general artistic and historical endeavour.

The consensus is clear: it is feared that this project will spend huge amounts of money which will not give appropriate returns. It has destroyed the existing world-class museum and its spectacular building. There are also gross deficiencies in the process by which the present plans have been developed.

The evidence for the above assertions is readily available: it has repeatedly been submitted to the Government in many forms over the last ten years, and has not been refuted. The evidence indicates that the whole project indeed is an act of cultural vandalism and financial irresponsibility. But even more distressing is how proper democratic processes have been circumvented.

Therefore, I oppose the 'modification'.

Tom Lockley