

**Object**

Ultimo , New South Wales

**Message**

On behalf of Ultimo Village Voice, I wish to register our strong and unwavering objection to the proposed Powerhouse modification – your Ref: 67588459-Mod-1.

The Wran Building and Galleria are not merely functional structures—they are architecturally significant and deeply valued by residents and visitors alike. These buildings were purpose-built, attractive, and remain perfectly serviceable. The proposal to demolish and replace them with imitations is not only fiscally irresponsible but culturally and environmentally indefensible.

The demolition of the loading dock further suggests a concerning lack of commitment to the museum's core purpose: hosting exhibitions of scale and ambition. This move raises serious questions about whether the government even intends for this site to continue functioning as a world-class museum in the future.

This so-called “revitalisation” represents a misdirection of public funds. Instead of restoring and enhancing the existing infrastructure—which has served the public well—taxpayers’ money will be wasted dismantling and poorly replicating what already exists. This will result in unnecessary delays, ballooning costs, and a diminished institution.

Ultimo Village Voice members —along with many other local and international organisations and museum and heritage experts,—have consistently called for the retention of the Wran Building and Galleria. These structures are a vital part of the museum’s identity and our community’s cultural heritage. Their destruction contradicts the very principles of sustainability, heritage preservation, and good governance.

We are particularly dismayed by the continued lack of transparency surrounding these decisions. As local residents—many of us lifelong supporters of the Powerhouse—we had hoped that the Minns government would adopt a more consultative and conservation-minded approach. Instead, what we are witnessing is a deep betrayal of public trust and a disturbing disregard for community voices and expert advice.

The proposed modifications are inappropriate, unpopular, destructive, and wasteful, and must be firmly and unequivocally opposed.

The planned demolition and approximate replication of the Wran Building and Galleria are not only disrespectful to our local heritage, they also violate international conservation standards. Article 6 of the ICOMOS Venice Charter (1964) is clear:

“The conservation of a monument implies preserving a setting which is not out of scale.

Wherever the traditional setting exists, it must be kept. No new construction, demolition or modification which would alter the relations of mass and colour must be allowed.”

We urge decision-makers to honour these principles and to listen—finally—to the community they are meant to serve. Retain the Wran Building. Preserve the Galleria. Respect the legacy of the Powerhouse and the people who care deeply for it.

Sincerely,

Bill d'Anthes, Emeritus Chair and Andrew Niven, Chair, Ultimo Village Voice