

NEW UPPER HOUSE INQUIRY INTO ARTS

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Hi everyone,

The Upper House Committee No6 (Transport and the Arts), chaired by Greens Member Cate Fahrman and co-chaired by SFF Member Mark Banasiak, just established a new Inquiry into **“Structure and funding of the arts, music, night-time economy, and transport portfolios.”**

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3150>

Its Terms of Reference include:

(a) The processes, rationale and governance structures underpinning budget, resource allocation and organisational restructure decisions within these portfolios

(b) **The role of central agencies and ministers** in determining allocations and approving organisational changes

(c) **The transparency**, timing and communication of decisions to affected agencies, employees and stakeholders

(d) The operational, staffing and program impacts of budget and restructuring decisions on...the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse Museum)...

(e) **The retention of professional expertise and institutional knowledge**, including the adequacy of processes for knowledge transfer, mentoring and succession planning

(f) The extent to which restructures and **workforce reductions** have affected technical capacity, project delivery and service quality

(g) **The reliance on external contractors and private consultants** within the relevant agencies

(h) The adequacy of consultation with employees, unions and other stakeholders during periods of change

(i) **The impact of budget and organisational decisions on services and programs across metropolitan and regional New South Wales**

(j) **The alignment of government decisions with stated policy objectives** in cultural development, creative industries, and the safe and sustainable operation of the transport system.

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/inquiries/3150/Terms%20of%20reference%20-%20structure%20and%20funding%20of%20PC%206%20portfolios%20-%20Self-referred%20-%2023%20October%202025.pdf>

The Inquiry is **SELF-REFERRED**, reflecting the increased unease in the NSW Parliament about mammoth vanity arts investments such as the Powerhouse Museum **Parramatta Milkcrate, Castle Hill warehouse and Ultimo destruction**, the (diminishing) operational funds allocation and the **increasing secrecy** surrounding these operations.

Read John McDonald’ editorial “Create NSW’s Private Lives”

<https://www.everythingthe.com/p/private-lives> “Create NSW has done little to allay suspicions that a **good deal of grant money has been devoted to funding Powerhouse-related projects by stealth...(and)...the bulk of successful applications have been declared “private”**...This “privacy” requirement is outrageous. I’ve never heard of anyone being harassed for receiving an arts grant, and even if this were so, it should not overrule the principle that unsuccessful applicants have a right to know where grant money went, so as to assist them with future applications. There’s also the small matter of it being taxpayers’ money, so **the citizens of NSW have a legitimate interest.**”

Public Submissions can be lodged on the NSW Parliament website

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3150#tab-submissions> until **Friday 14 November**.

This is a new opportunity to express our **STRONG OPPOSITION** at the demolition of our world-class Applied Arts and Science Museum, the destruction of the Wran Heritage, **the enormous and endless waste of taxpayers' money** and **the Arts Minister John Graham's broken promises** to "Save the Powerhouse Museum" and restore transparency.

Save the Powerhouse

 **Savethepowerhouse**