

NSW LABOR DOES NOT LIKE HERITAGE CONSERVATION?

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Sat 18/04/2026

Hi everyone,

The Federal Government's intention to "divest" the Victoria Barracks military base in Paddington as part of its "2023 Defence Estate Audit" is meeting with growing opposition.

Read City Hub of 10 April <https://cityhub.com.au/growing-opposition-meets-victoria-barracks-vision/>.

"This decision to sell Victoria Barracks simply does not stack up" Labor MLA Marjorie O'Neill told the City Hub, "Victoria Barracks is not surplus land. It is the birthplace of the Australian Army and a live operational hub...(it is) home to one third of the Australian Army."

City of Sydney Labor Councillor Zann Maxwell has unveiled new design concepts for the future redevelopment of the barracks "representing the City of Sydney's Guiding Principles for the site should the Army leave."

Cr Maxwell's video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaaHSo-HQZo> "reimagines" the barracks as a "multipurpose civic space, and are part of a broader call for a publicly-led master planning of the site" (read real estate redevelopment).

NSW Labor seems to be at odds with heritage conservation.

Cr Maxwell's design concept shows the Commonwealth Heritage-listed compound surrounded by "**medium-density apartments**" with "**the barracks' sandstone heritage buildings retrofitted with sleek glass shopfronts, transformed into a lively retail and hospitality precinct.**"

Read City Hub of 7 April <https://cityhub.com.au/victoria-barracks-public-space/>.

This follows –

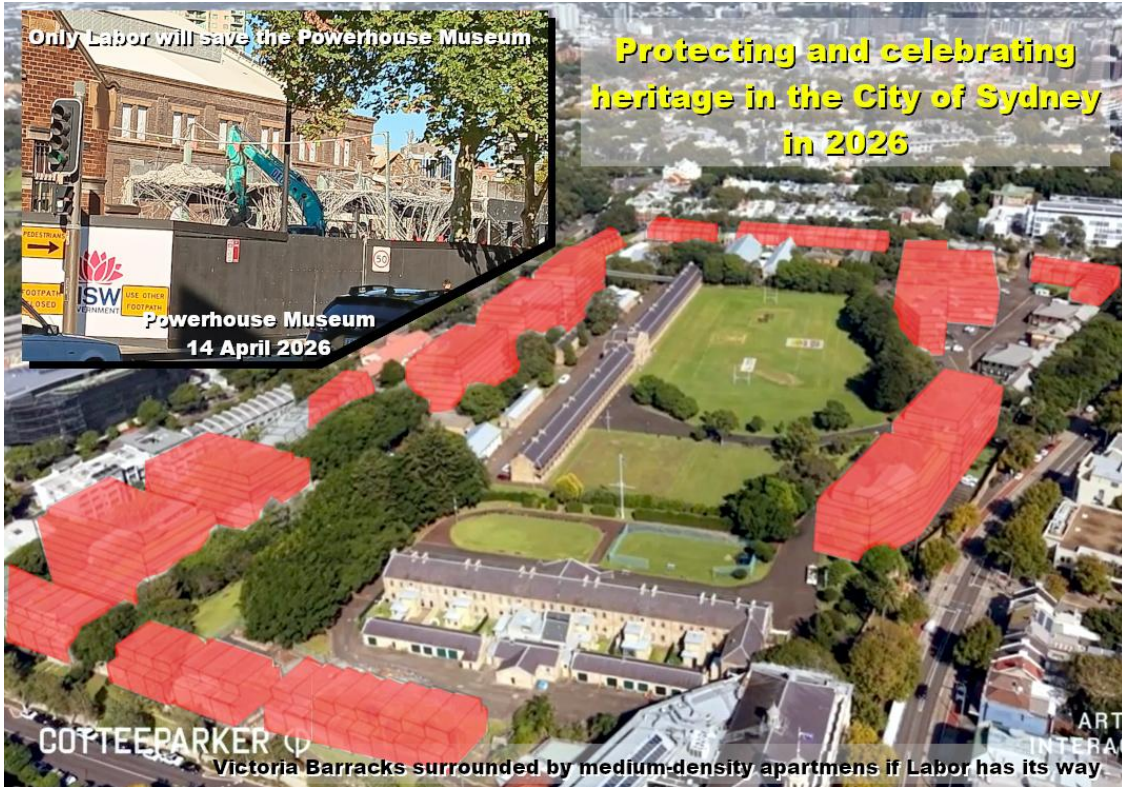
- The total destruction of the Powerhouse Museum's Wran Heritage which the NSW Labor Government added to its State Heritage Register less than 2 years ago (https://gazette.nsw.gov.au/gazette/2024/7/2024-7_268-gazette.pdf - 12 July 2024) for the "**historic, social and associative significance of adaptive reuse of the 1899 Ultimo Power House as the Powerhouse Museum in 1988, INCLUDING THE WRAN AND HARWOOD BUILDINGS.**"
- The apparently deliberate undermining of the Parramatta Female Factory complex's chances of a UNESCO World Heritage listing due to surrounding high-rise development proposals..

In most countries heritage is treated as a source of national pride—carefully preserved for its cultural, architectural and historical value, and recognised as a major driver of tourism..

In NSW heritage is only perceived as an obstacle to real estate "opportunities."

If, like many others, you oppose the proposed divestment of Victoria Barracks, you can sign one of the petitions currently available online..

Links to 3 of them are available in the City Hub of 28 March
<https://cityhub.com.au/flurry-of-petitions-against-victoria-barracks-divestment/>



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