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<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-05-01/parramatta-powerhouse-construction-ends-as-opening-date-nears/106629094>

Construction ends on \$915 million Parramatta Powerhouse museum set to open this year



By Declan Bowring
702 ABC Sydney
Topic: Libraries, Museums and Galleries



Some in Western Sydney say Powerhouse Parramatta will "truly change our city". (Supplied: Powerhouse Parramatta)

In short:

Four years after it started, construction of the Powerhouse Parramatta, hailed as a major cultural institution for Western Sydney, is finished.

Powerhouse CEO Lisa Havilah says the museum team will now focus on installing five exhibitions for the opening.

What's next?

Premier Chris Minns has flagged the museum will open in September, though Ms Havilah has not confirmed the date.

Construction of the \$915 million Powerhouse Parramatta has been completed ahead of the new Western Sydney institution's opening as soon as September.

The NSW government has announced the major milestone four years after work began, with the site handed over by builder LendLease to the Powerhouse at 5pm yesterday.

Seven expansive zones are part of the museum, including an 18-metre high space over 2,200 square metres, which will feature Task Eternal, the largest exhibition about space exploration in Australia.

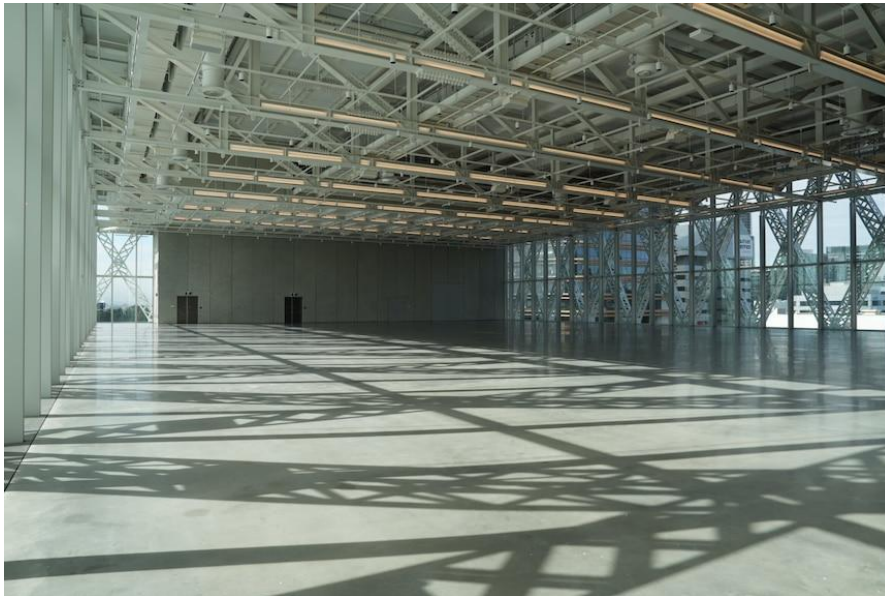


Timelapse of Powerhouse Parramatta construction. *(Supplied: Powerhouse Parramatta)*

Powerhouse CEO Lisa Havilah said her team would now start installing five exhibitions for the museum's opening.

"This is Western Sydney's first major cultural institution," Ms Havilah told 702 ABC Sydney. **"This investment is about the diverse, fast-growing and young communities of Western Sydney having direct access to world-class arts and culture."**

Ms Havilah said the museum also includes a public rooftop garden for horticulture demonstrations and a 60-bed accommodation area for 10,000 visiting students a year to complete immersive learning programs.



Five exhibitions will fill the spaces inside the Powerhouse.

(ABC News: Digby Werthmuller)

She told 702 ABC Sydney a pedestrian-friendly civic link that passes through the museum would connect the river to Parramatta Square as the nearby Sydney Metro project finishes, which is due to be completed in 2032.

Ms Havilah would not give an opening date for the museum, except to say it would be before the end of this year.

"When it opens later this year it will truly change our city," Parramatta NSW MP Donna Davis said.

"The ambition of this museum matches the ambition of the people of Parramatta and I can't wait to see it."



Lisa Havilah says Powerhouse Parramatta will be a world-class cultural institution in Western Sydney. *(ABC News: Helena Burke)*

Premier Chris Minns inadvertently revealed September as a prospective opening date at a press conference in May last year.

"It's not far away, probably September of next year it'll open its doors, and it'll be an exciting day for our beautiful city," Mr Minns said at the time.



The building features an exoskeleton design that means inside exhibition spaces can be free of columns. *(ABC News: Digby Werthmuller)*

"Well, it may well be that I wasn't supposed to say that, but that's what we're aiming for, and so it's not too far away. We really want to open as soon as possible."

Arts Minister John Graham said entry to the museum would be free with some exhibits like *Task Eternal* requiring paid entry.

"That's a really important policy of the government, we want our cultural institutions to be free," Mr Graham said.

Powerhouse closed its Ultimo premises in February 2024 for major renovations and is expected to reopen to the public in 2027.