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Powerhouse Parramatta opens as NSW's biggest cultural project since Sydney Opera House, with 26,000 opening-weekend bookings

The $915 million museum has opened after four years of construction, with more than 26,000 visitors expected and a major economic boost for Western Sydney.

Bianca Mulheron
Digital Reporter

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More than 26,000 people have booked to visit the $915 million Powerhouse Parramatta this weekend as the museum opens to the public for the first time.

The cultural institution officially opened on Saturday, November 7, marking what the NSW Government has described as its largest cultural infrastructure project since the Sydney Opera House.

The opening follows four years of construction, with more than 4,000 workers contributing 2.7 million hours to the project, according to The Daily Telegraph.





The $915 million Powerhouse Parramatta has officially opened after four years of construction, with more than 26,000 people booked to visit during its opening weekend.
Picture: News Cor

Western Sydney businesses secured more than $329 million in construction contracts, according to Infrastructure NSW, while three-quarters of the workforce came from the region.

NSW Arts Minister John Graham said the museum would expand access to cultural and educational opportunities in Western Sydney.

"We know that this will inspire not just creatives but also scientists and engineers of the future," he told the ABC.



Powerhouse Parramatta features five major exhibitions showcasing more than 3,000 objects spanning science, technology, art and Western Sydney's history.
Picture: Joanne Vella / News Corp Australia

The 18,000-square-metre museum features five major opening exhibitions showcasing more than 3,000 objects spanning science, technology, art and local history.

Among the attractions is Task Eternal, which explores aviation and space through more than 850 objects, including a spacesuit worn by Australian astronaut Katherine Bennell-Pegg.

Visitors can also explore The Mall, an exhibition examining Western Sydney's shopping centres and their role in shaping local communities.

Other exhibitions include The Dark, an interactive experience for children exploring the natural world and outer space, and Overflow, which examines water systems and First Nations knowledge.



More than $329 million in construction contracts were awarded to Western Sydney businesses during the development of Powerhouse Parramatta. Picture: News Corp

British artist Es Devlin's The Turning brings together film, immersive installations and interactive experiences.

Powerhouse Parramatta acting chief executive Abbie Galvin said the institution would help strengthen the region's cultural identity. "This place will become a cultural backbone for Western Sydney," she told the ABC.

The museum's opening also marks the beginning of a 23-day festival featuring more than 170 events, including live performances, workshops, talks and family activities.

Most exhibitions are free, with visitors able to access four of the five opening displays without charge. Task Eternal costs $30 for adults and $20 for concession holders, while children under 16 can enter free of charge.