

5-6 November, 2016
(Sydney Morning Herald)

Redevelopment

Panto horse designed by fools

"Boilerplate" is American for corporate zombie-speak. Professor Barney Glover's letter (November 3) is classic, meaningless drivel: "iconic, world-class, vision". Such persiflage hides the truth of a project lacking in community consultation. It's wasting hundreds of millions of dollars worth of excellent facilities in magnificent, much awarded heritage buildings next to Darling Harbour's revamped 40 million visitor destination and perfectly suited to the stories encompassed in world class collections. The myth has been busted that sale of the site will pay for a new facility in Parramatta, which many westerners do not want on a site which now appears not only flood-prone but requiring extra, expensive consolidation. Over 40 reports have



The Powerhouse Museum row at platform 1. Photo: Dallas Kilponen

been suppressed – as the Government Information Privacy Act sourced, *Herald*-facilitated 2015 documents have shown. The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Board hides behind the disingenuous skirts of a rotting, secretive government. When subjected to methodical analysis, the "final" business plan for Cabinet will demonstrate gaps and questionable assumptions reinforcing the expensive "move" of the Powerhouse Museum as a nonsense. As with other mega projects, this one will prove subject to major cost blowouts. As for the esteemed director? Strange how other museologists disagree with the project's fundamentals and planning. Far from being a camel – this is a pantomime horse designed by a ship of fools. Let us see the suppressed documents and do analysis of this "business plan" – aided by fulsome, honest responses from government at the Upper House Inquiry's next hearing.

Lindsay Sharp Founding director, Powerhouse Museum, (1978-1988), Foxground

Published on line as:

Gobbledygook masks the true colours of museum scheme

"Boilerplate" is American for corporate zombie-speak. Professor Barney Glover's letter (November 3) is classic, meaningless drivel: "iconic, world-class, vision". Such persiflage hides the truth of a project totally lacking in community consultation. It's wasting hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of excellent facilities in magnificent, much awarded heritage buildings, located next to Darling Harbour's revamped 40 million visitor destination and perfectly suited to the stories and experiences encompassed in world class collections. The myth has been busted that sale of the site will pay for a new facility in Parramatta, which many westerners do not want on a site which now appears not only flood-prone but also requiring additional, expensive consolidation. Over 40 reports have been suppressed – as the Government Information Privacy Act (GIPA) sourced, *Herald*-facilitated 2015 documents have shown. The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Board hides behind the disingenuous skirts of a rotting, secretive government. Inevitably, when subjected to methodical analysis, the so-called "final" business plan for Cabinet will demonstrate glaring gaps and questionable assumptions reinforcing the hugely expensive "move" of the Powerhouse Museum as a nonsense. As with so many other mega projects, this one will prove subject to major cost blow outs. As for the esteemed director? Strange how, overwhelmingly, other experienced museologists disagree with the project's fundamentals and so-called planning process. Far from being a camel – this is a pantomime horse designed by a ship of fools. Let us see the suppressed documents and carry out proper, thorough analysis of this "business plan" – aided by fulsome, honest responses from government at the Upper House Inquiry's next hearing on November 14.

Lindsay Sharp (Founding director, Powerhouse Museum, 1978-1988) Foxground