



📷 The elite push to prevent the Powerhouse move was labelled “patronising”, “classist” and an insult to a region long starved of arts infrastructure / Picture: Jeremy Piper

## NEWS

# Powerhouse Museum: City elites want to prevent move from Ultimo to Parramatta

Andrew Carswell, The Daily Telegraph

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THEY are the cream of the inner city elite and they have set their sights on depriving Western Sydney of a glittering new cultural institution.

Premier Mike Baird’s bold vision to move the Powerhouse Museum from Ultimo to Parramatta has riled the Sydney social set — including Hollywood star Cate Blanchett and husband Andrew Upton — and they have taken to the media to fight the plan.

A group calling itself the Powerhouse Museum Alliance took out a full-page ad in yesterday’s Sydney Morning Herald to urge the state government to, “Please don’t

destroy the Powerhouse”.



📷 Actress Cate Blanchett and husband Andrew Upton / Picture: Getty Images

The open letter was signed by almost 200 Australians, including Blanchett, former NSW premier Bob Carr and Hungry Jack’s chairman Jack Cowin.

The letter drew a swift rebuke from key leaders and captains of industry who went on the attack yesterday in defence of the Baird government’s decision to relocate the museum.

The elite push to prevent the Powerhouse move was labelled “patronising”, “classist” and an insult to a region long starved of arts infrastructure.

Quick to lead the fightback were Aussie Home Loans founder John Symond, Harvey Norman chairman Gerry Harvey, Sydney Cricket Ground and Sports Grounds Trust chairman Tony Shepherd, Sydney Business Chamber’s David Borger, and key government lobbyist Peter Collins, each claiming the residents of Western Sydney deserved a greater portion of the city’s art galleries and museums — 90 per cent of which are located in the one local government area.

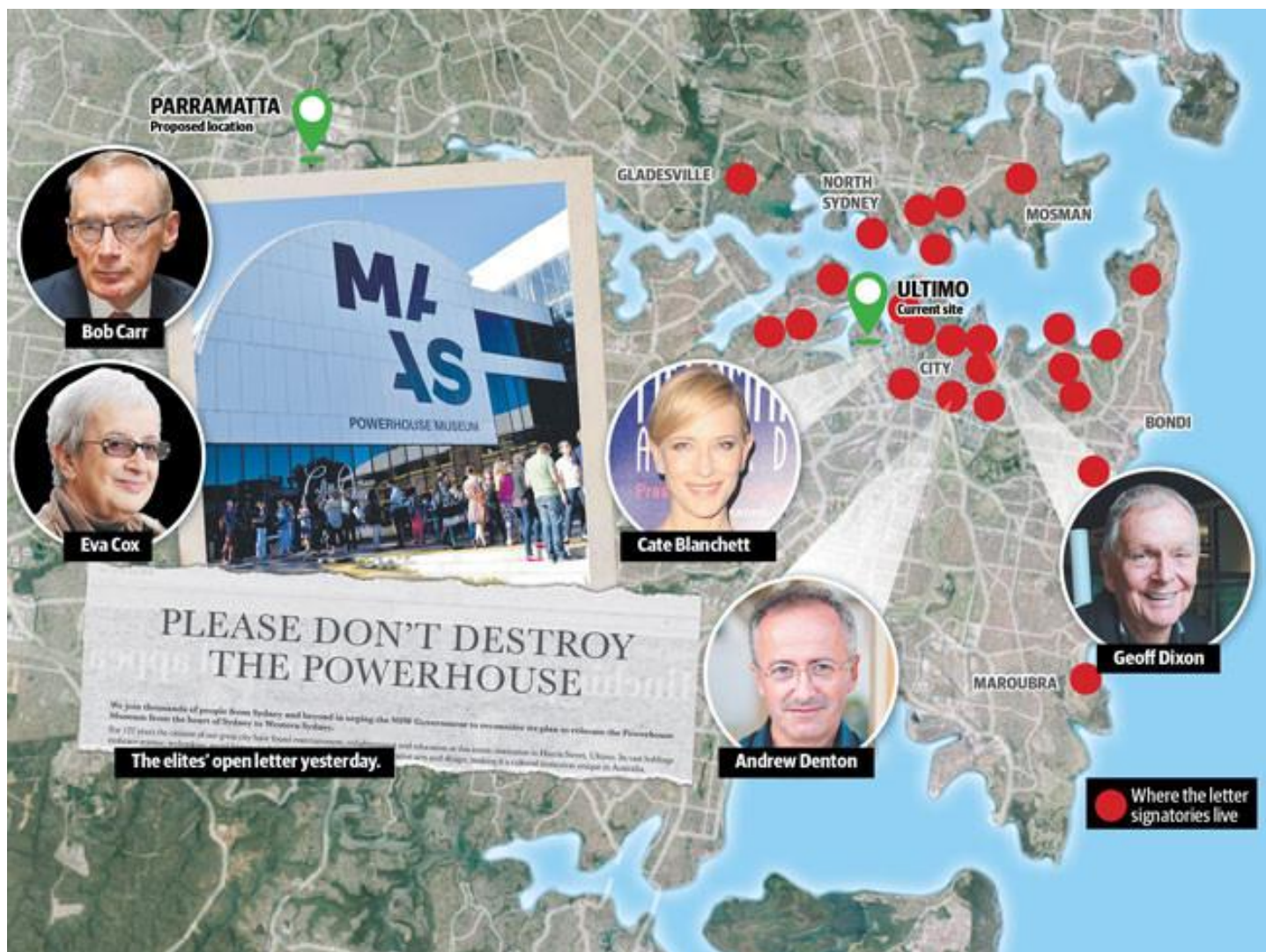
The museum’s imminent move west also drew support from Vice Chancellor of Western Sydney University Barney Glover and Western Sydney Leadership

Dialogue founder Christopher Brown.

Greater Sydney Commission chair Lucy Turnbull said it was important to get “the balance right and have the right things in the right places” across “the metropolitan area.”

Mr Symond, an arts patron and former chairman of the Sydney Opera House Trust said the relocation takes the museum to the people.

“We need to spread arts to where the population is,” he said. “So philosophically, this is very positive for the arts community and Western Sydney.”



📷 They don't want to see the Powerhouse Museum moved.

Mr Brown said the Powerhouse alliance’s suggestion that a “satellite” museum be built in the west, was patronising.

“When are the inner city elites going to wake up to the fact that Parramatta is the centre of the city,” he said.

“The city does extend beyond the Anzac Bridge. These people in the letter never visit the Powerhouse currently.

“It’s a bit like the Rabbitohs, they only wanted them when they were gone. Get over it. It’s done and dusted.”

Mr Shepherd said the relocation presented the region with a significant opportunity.



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“I think it is a wonderful idea and a chance to create something that is world class and spectacular,” he said. “This is not east versus west. This is placing it in the growth centre of Australia and a place accessible to a lot more people.”

Mr Glover said the move was “an incredible opportunity” to create an iconic museum, while Mr Collins said going west was “logical” given the Powerhouse Museum was easily transferable and would allow the museum to showcase its entire collection.

Mr Borger said the power of numbers, not identities, was what was important. “So we’ve got 170 inner city elites that are keen on the current location but there are 2 million residents that struggle to get to these facilities in the inner city.”



📷 Not having it ...Gerry Harvey.



📷 Fightback ... John Symond.

## INCONVENIENT TRUTH FOR THE SYDNEY A-LIST

### Jonathan Chancellor

THEY were almost all inner city or eastern suburbs types.

Most of the 195 signatories on the “Don’t Destroy the Powerhouse” petition would seem to lead their lives some distance from Sydney’s west.

The obvious exception is Dr Brian Nankivell, who lives and works at Westmead.

Headlining the staunch defenders — and among the closest to the existing Ultimo museum — are Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton. They now have a Macquarie Street bolthole in the Astor, just a 3km walk across town. However, they are more likely British-bound after buying a \$6.25 million manor in Sussex, England.

Sometime TV broadcaster Andrew Denton is just up the hill in Surry Hills. Playwright Ron Blair, who helped established the Nimrod, has long lived in Surry Hills, too.

Inner city Darlinghurst is home to the entrepreneur Mark Carnegie and power couple Ken and Lillian Horler. Kathy Bail, the chief executive of UNSW Press, is in Darlinghurst, too.

Foxtel dynamo Brian Walsh has an Elizabeth Bay penthouse. Ditto Crown Casino's John Alexander, albeit a little more dated in Del Rio on the harbour.

The bush ballad teller Warren Fahey and interior designer Brian Keirnan are part of the Potts Point push.

Retired Qantas boss Geoff Dixon is at Woolloomoolloo.



📷 Cartoonist Warren Brown's view.

Prof Ross Steele, the Francophile, is in Paddington, as is architect Andrew Andersons.

Leafy Woollahra is home to Jill Hickson, wife of former premier Neville Wran. Businessman David Mortimer lives there, too.

Former stockbroker Robert Pittorino lives mostly in Monaco, but his Sydney home — which he bought from Nicole Kidman — is in Darling Point. Arts world power couple Ros and Tony Oxley reside on the Darling Point harbourfront, the glorious Carthona trophy home.

Up at Bellevue Hill are Les Owen, the society stockbroker and the art world bigwig Edmund Capon.

Channel 7 executive Bruce McWilliam is in Point Piper as is Hungry Jack’s founder Jack Cowin and the adman Geoffrey Cousins and author Darlene Bungey.

Way out at Vaucluse is Marco Belgiorno-Zegna at Warwick, the longtime Grace retailing family waterfront.

Former Premier Bob Carr is quite coastal at Maroubra, having been there since 1980.

From the inner west is Virginia Duigan from Birchgrove in the waterfront home bought in 1997 from literary couple David and Kirstin Williamson. They signed the petition too, but call Noosa home these days.

Activist Eva Cox lives in Glebe. Antique dealer Hartley Cook owns in Balmain.

Down in The Rocks precinct are architect Penelope Seidler and businesswoman Anne Keating. There are a few across the harbour, including retired businessman Trevor Kennedy at Kirribilli and Elsa Atkin at McMahons Point.



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