



Friday, 13 April 2018

## **POWERHOUSE MUSEUM: LABOR WITHDRAWS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT AND WILL CREATE MULTI-PURPOSE PERFORMANCE AND EXHIBITION SPACE AT PARRAMATTA SITE**

NSW Labor has withdrawn its bipartisan support for the move of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta - because the Berejiklian Government's actions bear little resemblance to the original promise made by the then-Premier Mike Baird on February 26, 2015.

The Berejiklian Government is dismembering the Powerhouse and scattering it about – not moving it.

In its February 2015 announcement, the State Government said the Powerhouse “will be entirely located in Western Sydney” and pledged \$10 million to move the institution.

In addition, there are massive cost blow-outs of between \$1 billion to \$2 billion – and there will be significant job losses at the Powerhouse Museum.

The Berejiklian Government plan for the Powerhouse Museum is “half-baked” and does not deliver a full cultural institution to Western Sydney.

Instead, NSW Labor will propose a multi-purpose performance and cultural exhibition space at the Parramatta site – and increased funding for arts and cultural activity, ongoing programs and infrastructure across Western Sydney.

Full details will be announced before the State election – and in conjunction with Western Sydney State MPs and relevant arts and cultural organisations and stakeholders.

### **Quotes attributable to NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley**

*“I fear that Ms Berejiklian will announce a pale imitation of the original promise, which was an entire relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta.*

*“Chopping the Powerhouse up into small pieces, strewn across Ultimo, Parramatta and Castle Hill, will deliver the worst of all worlds.*

*“Labor will not support the dismembering of the Powerhouse Museum. Either move it entirely to Western Sydney, or leave it where it is.*

*“Western Sydney deserves its own cultural institution to be proud of: Far better to deliver a new facility in Parramatta capable of holding large scale exhibitions and performances, than a half-baked move of the Powerhouse's leftovers.”*

### **Quotes attributable to Shadow Arts Minister Walt Secord**

*“Labor wants to see a world-class cultural institution at Parramatta, but not one at the expense of the beloved Powerhouse Museum*

*“As a member of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Powerhouse move, I saw first-hand how the project lurched from problem to problem.”*

*“There has been a cloak of secrecy surrounding the Powerhouse Museum; for too long, the Berejiklian Government said ‘trust us’. Based on the evidence before the Parliamentary committee, we do not trust the Berejiklian Government.”*

*“There is also widespread anger in Western Sydney within arts organisations as they see more than \$600 million being spent within a three kilometre radius in Sydney’s CBD.”*