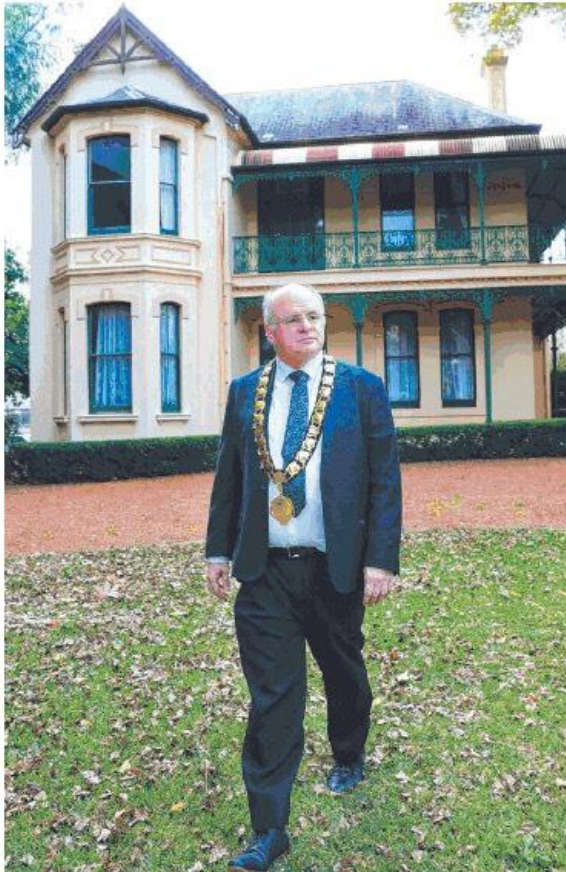


PARRAMATTA

# 'Mean and vicious'



Parramatta Lord Mayor Andrew Wilson at Willow Grove. Picture: Angelo Velardo

## Lord Mayor says he will not put up with public and online abuse

**Maryanne Taouk**

"VICIOUS", "cruel" and "desperate" — Parramatta's Lord Mayor Andrew Wilson has hit back at the North Parramatta Residents' Action Group (NPRAG) after receiving abuse on the street and online.

Cr Wilson said the group's behaviour was the reason he did not attend a recent community rally at Willow Grove which was protesting the State Government's plans to demolish the building to make way for the Powerhouse Museum.

"They are mean and vicious, they talk down to you and are cruel to you on the street," Cr Wilson said.

He has also decided to exclude the group from consultation about a protest letter which is to be sent to NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian.

The letter is a follow-up to a previous one which councillors deemed "too soft".

"I remember the White Horse (Hotel), I remember the tennis courts, I remem-

ber our heritage that we lost and I feel very strongly about it," Cr Wilson said. "I'm a heritage nut. I do want to protect Willow Grove and I think I'm a fairly reasonable person but I won't be yelled or screamed at."

Cr Wilson said he would be willing to speak with members of NPRAG if they approached the mayoral office and spoke "civilly".

NPRAG president Aidan Anderson said the group had invited him to speak at the event and publicly thanked him for allowing the gates of Willow Grove to be opened for the protest.

"At the event we thanked the Lord Mayor for opening the gates, passed on his apologies to the crowd for being unable to attend and invited the Deputy Lord Mayor and councillors to speak," Mr Anderson said.

"Our fight is with the State Government that wants to destroy Australia's glorious history by hook or by crook as long as there's a dollar to be made."