

From  
John  
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NEWS



The Powerhouse Museum is being railroaded out of town

Gladys's gang has never been notable for transparency or accountability, but with re-election this tendency looks set to descend to a whole new level. In response to a detailed Parliamentary Inquiry into Museums and Galleries that was more than two-and-a-half years in the making, Arts Minister, Don Harwin, wrote off the six recommendations in the most perfunctory fashion. Four out of six received a single dismissive sentence.

This really is the height of arrogance. It's a calculated act of contempt that declares the Minister does not believe he is answerable to anyone for his actions or decisions. The proposed move of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta has been criticised by every kind of expert, while the government's Business Case is a threadbare document based on assertions rather than facts. Remember, this is the government whose light rail

We stand on the verge of a momentous act that will effectively destroy one of the state's leading cultural facilities. The plan doesn't give Parramatta a cultural institution but will remove a major attraction from the metropolitan area. The government will spend at least \$1.5 billion to achieve this negative result. Who wins? The developers that get hold of the Powerhouse site. Anybody else?

The main point of resistance now is the cross-bench in the NSW Senate. That means getting Mark Latham to train his aggressive instincts on the plan, chiefly to decry the waste of money that could be spent on schools, hospitals, etc. It's a populist line, but hey, it's true!

(Extract from full newsletter...)

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