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### WHY PARRAMATTA WON'T HAVE A "NEW POWERHOUSE" MUSEUM



For 5 years Save the Powerhouse has said that Parramatta deserves the Museum of its choice. Whatever structure the Parramatta community finally gets on its riverside flood plain, it won't be the "New Powerhouse" museum – NOR EVEN A REAL MUSEUM - that the Government is desperately promoting. Why?

- THE ORIGINAL POWERHOUSE WAS CREATED AND CUSTOMISED FOR ULTIMO through the Sulman Prize-winning transformation of the former Ultimo Power Station by visionary architect Lionel Glendenning, so it cannot be transplanted anywhere else. The Government's dithering over naming the proposed Parramatta institution - "Parramatta Powerhouse", then "MAAS Parramatta" and currently, the "New Powerhouse" - suggests fundamental uncertainty about the "move" project.

- FAR TOO SMALL! The Government's brief to participants in the recent design competition for the Parramatta museum required only 15,000m<sup>2</sup> of "exhibition space" - 25% smaller than the Museum at Ultimo. With only 5,600m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition galleries required to have museum standard environmental controls, which is just over 25% of the museum standard exhibition spaces in Ultimo. Museums consultant Kylie Winkworth calculates that "THE PARRAMATTA MUSEUM WILL HAVE 75% LESS MUSEUM STANDARD EXHIBITION GALLERIES THAN THE (Ultimo) PHM". She concludes "It is clear that THE GOVERNMENT AND CURRENT CEO NEVER INTENDED TO CREATE A MUSEUM AS IT IS COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD. What they are doing is a big commercial development with some exhibition galleries attached that are far inferior and just a fraction of the size of the PHM. What museum needs 60 residential apartments?"

NOT A GENUINE MUSEUM. There have been hints for over four years that the Government's did not genuinely aim to "move the Powerhouse" and create an authentic museum for Parramatta. As we learned from a recent (<http://tiny.cc/d2rykz>) article, it will fall somewhere between - a commercial shopping mall/food court. According to MAAS CEO Lisa Havilah "We don't want to be a nine-to-five museum, we want it to be a platform for large-scale events...with curated food and beverage retail..." and

- an open space for “visiting exhibitions and events”, with numerous bars, open areas (“reflecting the Japanese concept of “ma””, says Architect Kusunoki) and just a few token relics of the former Powerhouse Museum here and there.

A visit to Carriageworks (Redfern), Havilah’s previous proud creation, should give you an idea of what to expect. It’s true that, technically, it will be Australia’s largest museum, but only because the Government will have destroyed the original Powerhouse, at twice the size, by the time it is built.

#### - COST

The Government’s estimated project cost is \$1.17B, excluding many essential “extras” (eg the collection storage building in Castle Hill!) of which \$450M “will come from redeveloping the Ultimo site (Baird’s original estimate was only \$150-200M!) but given the Berejiklian government’s infamous track record of project cost blow-outs we can safely assume the final total will exceed our predicted \$1.5B.

For a fraction of this sum Parramattans could have had the museum they wanted, AND IT COULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY NOW!

“The Powerhouse Museum - applied arts and sciences - is being eviscerated and dismembered and belittled” mourns former Powerhouse curator Jennifer Sanders. “...less collection on display...fewer exhibitions, less accessible and less secure and safe. In Parramatta we’ll be lucky if the Boulton and Watt (steam engine) is in a corridor, out of reach from the floodwaters - operated by a push button - perhaps...?”

It is still time to stop the move and SIGN AND SHARE OUR PETITION <http://chng.it/2cNV29SDZc> asking to divert the money to bushfire and drought relief.

