

**Submission
No 30**

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Organisation: Greater Western Sydney Heritage Action Group
Date received: 8 August 2016

8th August 2016
Standing Committee 4
Inquiry into Museums and Galleries
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Committee,

Our networks across Western Sydney have discussed this government project and many in our communities have not been consulted. The NSW Government has adopted a “Do as you are told” or “Get what you are given” attitude. This is not a good way to conduct business ladies and gentlemen; the government is there to carry out the wishes of the people, that is what they are elected to do.

We believe the following points mirror our thoughts on the matter. Parramatta should have their own museum, not one that was set up for Sydney, the City Museum is designed to represent the City and our capital should retain it.

Since 1988, thousands of annual visitors, local, interstate and international, have visited and enjoyed its exceptional exhibits and programs. We’re fighting to keep the Museum in Ultimo so that our children, grandchildren and visitors to our hospitable City can benefit from the same opportunities.

Everyone will have their own views on saving the Powerhouse, and it is vital to express them, but some of the key points you might want to consider include:

- This is just another “developer deal” to build high rise on the site.
- Critical cultural, historical, social and economic importance of the Powerhouse in Ultimo, this facility has had numerous interesting displays and educational programmes until the Baird Government decided to move it.
- The cost of the move - taxpayers could pay up to \$1 billion, and more because estimates are always err on the conservative side.
- The proposed location – a flood prone car park in Parramatta, which floods on a regular intervals has again flooded this year in 2016 with at least five foot of water through it.
- I am not surprised at the total lack of genuine community consultation, no one in Parramatta has been consulted about this or the demolition of our Memorial Swimming Pool or the enlargement of the Parramatta Football Stadium, which will swallow up Crown Land, which is against the legislation.
- Parramatta residents don’t want a “cut-down” Powerhouse; they want one for their own history.
- Parramatta residents deserve top-class cultural institutions of their choosing, in a place the community decides.
- The secrecy of the chaotic (so-called) “planning process” has been appalling as usual, trade mark of Mr. Baird. The NSW government has let the community down by blocking access to the facility.
- The cultural ignorance and incompetence of the Arts Minister Since 1988, with thousands of annual visitors, local, interstate and international, have visited and enjoyed its exceptional exhibits and programmes.

We will fighting to keep the Museum in Ultimo so that our children, grandchildren and visitors to our hospitable City can benefit from the same opportunities; it is the Governments duty of care to provide this once top class facility to bring and promote tourism to our State, this will create jobs and growth.

George Gittany Photography.

Yours sincerely
June M Bullivant OAM