

**Submission  
No 112**

## **INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**

**Name:** Ms Jeanie Kitchener

**Date received:** 14 August 2016

---

I feel very strongly about maintaining the Powerhouse museum on its current site. This museum building was carefully designed around the original power station. It was the site of the Ultimo Power station which provided electricity for Sydney trams. The museum maintained and incorporated many features of this original power station. It is an exhibition in its own right that cannot be moved to any other site because of its integral origin and meaning.

This museum now is the home to many enormous objects - airplanes, trains, the Boulton and Watt steam engine to name a few. The removal of these will be a logistic nightmare. The Powerhouse is one of a few sites of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. There is Sydney Observatory and the Discovery Centre. The Discovery Centre is at Castle Hill. If there is a need for a museum in the Paramatta area, the MAAS can have another museum there with objects and possibly themed to incorporate the rich history of the area.

The current location of the Powerhouse museum is a very good one. Schools visiting the museum can make an excursion day and visit Sydney Observatory or the Maritime museum or the Australian museum or the sites at Darling Harbour. There are many options to maximise the visit into Sydney. It is conveniently located for regional schools when they come to Sydney as they plan their visit around many local sites. It is also a major tourist attraction very conveniently placed within the city of Sydney.

To remove the Powerhouse building and move the exhibits is akin to suggesting to move the Louvre. The building is a museum in itself. It is internationally well respected and well known.

The Smithsonian museum exists on its own site and has many branches. the Powerhouse museum can be retained and a new branch of the MAAS built in Paramatta. The MAAS once had several other museums: The Mint, The Hyde Park Barracks and the museum train. It can now have a branch at Paramatta while still having the Powerhouse museum at Ultimo.