

**Proforma A**

## **INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**

**Name:** Proforma A – Powerhouse Museum should stay in Ultimo

**Number received:** 20

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Upper House Inquiry into museums and galleries No 4

Terms of reference:

1e) the sale of the Powerhouse Museum site and its proposed move to Parramatta and whether there are alternative strategies to support museum development.

1f) the development and transparency of advice to the government on priorities for NSW museums and galleries

**Submission:**

The Powerhouse Museum should stay in Ultimo, its home since 1893 where it opened in 1988 in an award winning iconic, fit for purpose building, the Powerhouse Museum. It is ideally located by the tourist precinct of Darling Harbour and the creative and education precinct of Ultimo, Broadway and Chippendale Easily reached by Sydney's radial transport networks, it is a key element in Sydney city's educational and leisure offerings for families, students and visitors of all ages from across the state, Australia and the world. The completion of the Goods Line walkway combined with a reenergised exhibition program have already seen significant increases in visitor numbers to the Powerhouse.

Parramatta and Western Sydney deserve a cultural beacon that is unique to the region's history, cultures and contemporary life. Such a beacon could well be a collaboration with the Powerhouse, indeed all the NSW major cultural institutions. This would enable the sharing of the State's cultural collections and capacity while building and nurturing cultural development in Western Sydney. A new home grown Museum in Parramatta has the potential to have an identity distinctive to Western Sydney. The Powerhouse should not be destroyed to develop culture in Western Sydney.

In announcing this plan so hurriedly, without proper analysis and costing, and without any public consultation, the government has failed to take into account the central position the Powerhouse has as one of the NSW's three leading cultural institutions. The Powerhouse belongs to the people of NSW who have contributed generously to its development since 1880 as benefactors and supporters and, repeat visitors and loyal volunteers.

If the Powerhouse Museum move is pushed through, that will be the end of one of Australia's, indeed the world's leading museums.

The Government should keep the iconic Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo and develop a great new museum in Parramatta.

I am happy to have my submission published with my name attached.