



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – LEGAL AFFAIRS

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **POWERHOUSE MUSEUM BUSINESS CASE SHOULD BE RELEASED**

## **Museums and galleries interim report released**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**18 December 2017**

The Upper House committee inquiring into museums and galleries in New South Wales has today tabled an interim report, urging the NSW Government to release the full business case for the Powerhouse Museum and all assessed proposals to the committee and the community for full public consultation before making its final decision.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, said: “The committee has issued this report in order for its recommendations to be considered by the government alongside the final business case relating to the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum”.

The report examines the proposal to relocate the Powerhouse Museum and concerns related to the costs, rationale, logistics and issues with the proposed new site. It also discusses other cultural investment options for Western Sydney.

Mr Borsak said: “It is appalling that the decision to move the Powerhouse Museum was announced before either the preliminary or final business cases were prepared, and the exact costs and details of the move being known. This decision was made without any genuine consultation with the community or arts and cultural sector”.

“The committee has recommended that the business case also consider the establishment of a Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences satellite site in Western Sydney and that the government consider investing in a cultural precinct proposal for Western Sydney to be identified during a community consultation process.”

Also examined by the inquiry was funding and support for museums and galleries, particularly community managed facilities, in rural and regional New South Wales. The Chair said, “such funding is minimal and difficult to access. Therefore, the committee recommended that funding grants and programs for projects, capital works, and maintenance in rural and regional museums and galleries be reviewed and expanded; that a minimum percentage of grant and program funding is allocated to rural art and cultural facilities; and that consideration be given to expanding the funds available through the Regional Cultural Fund and making it accessible for specific program and staffing needs.”

“The committee also believes there could be value in having a dedicated centre for Aboriginal art and culture and/or increased exhibition and accumulation of Aboriginal collections.”



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For a full copy of the committee's interim report and other inquiry documents please visit the committee's webpage: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/museumsandgalleries](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/museumsandgalleries)

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, on 9230 2573.*