

# **INQUIRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S MANAGEMENT OF THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM AND OTHER MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL PROJECTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

## **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – 0930 THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2020**

### **QUESTION ONE**

The Hon. WALT SECORD:

Thank you, Mr Chair. Ms Havilah, in your opening statement you referred to webinars, consultations, and to 6,000, 3,000 and 1,000 people responding to surveys. What was the overwhelming response to the consultations? What was the number one finding?

Ms HAVILAH:

As I said in my statement, I led most of the webinars and I was present so I was able to hear a lot of that feedback firsthand. The overwhelming feeling that I got was that people love the museum and there are a lot of people in the community who are very passionate about it. There was, also, a very strong sense across the community that the museum does need renewal, that while the museum has been much loved for generations it does need investment into its renewal. There was also a lot of feeling and passion about the Powerhouse collection and the community really want in the renewal an opportunity to engage more with the collection, so exhibitions that really focus on that and exhibitions that are generated by the museum's staff.

One of the other things that came out, which I think is very relevant, was that what has happened around the museum is the region and the local area has changed very significantly. So new precincts have developed around us and there is new planning work to develop it even further. There are exciting developments like the new fish market, the International Convention Centre has come online. Also, the Darling Harbour area has grown significantly. I think the communities see that there has been change around the museum but no change within the museum, and I think we have a responsibility, when thinking about the renewal, to make a museum that is physically connected and responsive to the physical changes and the demographic changes that are happening around it.

The Hon. WALT SECORD:

Did the status of Willow Grove come up in the consultations?

Ms HAVILAH:

I would have to take that on notice because I had lots of conversations. The focus was on Ultimo. There could have been a question but I would have to take that on notice.

### **ANSWER**

During the Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal consultation, Powerhouse Parramatta was mentioned in general and on rare occasions. Feedback reflected the community's value of heritage however the status of Willow Grove wasn't discussed.

## **QUESTION TWO**

The CHAIR:

Ms Havilah, since the announcement on 4 July for the retention of the Powerhouse building itself, do you have a conservation management plan for the whole of the Ultimo site now updated?

Ms HAVILAH:

Not updated, no.

The CHAIR:

Do you have one at all?

Ms HAVILAH:

I will have to take that on notice in terms of status of that.

## **ANSWER**

The Powerhouse has a current Conservation Management Plan for the Powerhouse Museum, Ultimo. An updated Conservation Management Plan is being prepared as part of the Ultimo Final Business Case process.

### **QUESTION THREE**

The CHAIR:

Is there a business case that you are aware of for the Business Council of Australia for Castle Hill?

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:

The Museums Discovery Centre?

The CHAIR:

Maybe you can answer this, Mr Borger. There is quite significant money that is going to be spent out there in relation to upgrading that site. That is the plan, is it not?

Mr BORGER:

Correct.

The CHAIR:

Is there a business case?

Mr BORGER:

My understanding is that there is certainly a business case for all of the various aspects of the—

Ms HAVILAH:

David, I can answer that for you. There was a business case developed in 2018 for Parramatta which included the upgrade and expansion of Castle Hill.

The CHAIR:

Can you table that, please?

Ms HAVILAH:

I can take that on notice, yes.

The CHAIR:

Thank you.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:

Has it been updated since the fundamental change of Government position I think on 4 August?

Ms HAVILAH:

No.

The CHAIR:

It has not been changed.

Ms HAVILAH:

The business case? It is actually a matter—I can take that on notice, but that is a matter for Create Infrastructure because they lead the business case process.

#### **ANSWER**

The business case for Castle Hill was included in the Extended Final Business Case for Parramatta prepared by Create Infrastructure. It is Attachment A: *Museums Discovery Centre Storage Project Brief, The MAAS Project*. The delivery of the business case was submitted to Parliament on 8 June 2018, and formally tabled in the Legislative Council on 19 June 2018.

#### **QUESTION FOUR**

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:

Ms Havilah, you want us to accept that you take heritage seriously and you cannot identify the conservation management plan. Please square that circle.

Ms HAVILAH:

It is all being developed as part of the business case so I will take that on notice.

#### **ANSWER**

The Powerhouse has a current Conservation Management Plan for the Powerhouse Museum, Ultimo. An updated Conservation Management Plan is being prepared as part of the Ultimo Final Business Case process.