

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2021**

### **QUESTION ONE**

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Mr Collins, in your answer you referred to exhibiting and putting objects out there. Ms Havilah, there has been quite a bit—it was on the front page of the *Goulburn Post* and lots of coverage down in Goulburn—about moving the steam engine to Goulburn, returning it to Goulburn, so to speak. I have got a copy of the Goulburn Mulwaree Council business paper for tomorrow evening and it says that you no longer support moving the steam engine to Goulburn. What has happened there?

**Ms HAVILAH:** The consideration of the loan of the Maudslay engine is an ongoing consideration.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Not according to the business paper.

**Ms HAVILAH:** I am not sure where that advice has come from. I believe that it is there.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I will quote directly from it. It is the business paper for tomorrow's meeting, "This proposal is no longer supported by the management at Powerhouse Museum and is unlikely to proceed in the short term", and that is the recommendation to the council involving this long-running debate about whether it is going to be returned to Goulburn.

**Ms HAVILAH:** I am not sure where they received that advice but I would like to take that on notice.

**Mr COLLINS:** Can I add to this? Kylie Winkworth, who I am sure is well known to members of the Committee, raised the potential loan of the engine to Goulburn with me, saying that in her view, and in the view of a number of people with significant collections knowledge, this was not something that, in her view, we should do. I said that I would raise that with the chief executive, which I have about a week ago. So whereas we are open to and, indeed, keen to support regional museums, because once upon a time the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences has consisted of a lot of regional museums, including one in Bathurst that I recall that particularly inspired me, while we are keen to assist regional museums and to look at loans from time to time, this is something that we are going to consider carefully because we need to look at what goes in the Powerhouse at Ultimo when we know what our budget is—to refresh it and really get it up to speed again. I think the chief executive and I are of one view that there should be a single standard of presentation which should be world's best practice in both Parramatta and Ultimo and, for that matter, to a lesser extent, Castle Hill.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I just want to close the loop on this here. So it is actually a recommendation from the general manager. Will you be communicating with Goulburn council and getting clarification on what your position is on the steam engine?

**Ms HAVILAH:** I will take that on notice and I will look into that. Thank you for raising that.

## **ANSWER**

- The Museum has a strong commitment to the regions and an ongoing loan program.
- The Museum is continuing discussions with Goulburn City Council for the loan of the Maudsley Beam Engine.
- The Museum acknowledges the strong feelings in the community, the significance of the engine to Goulburn, the quality the premises and operation at Goulburn Historic Waterworks Museum and the Museum's commitment to the regions.
- All loans are subject to an assessment process that considers a number of areas including, availability, suitability, community consultation, costs and venue conditions.
- No determination of has been made for this loan request as the assessment process continues.

## **QUESTION TWO**

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Alright. When in 2019 was the \$75 million plan announced? Can you remember?

**Ms HAVILAH:** November. Sorry, can you ask that question again?

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** When was it announced that you wanted \$75 million in donations? I have got reporting that goes back to November of 2019 but I cannot see an announcement.

**Ms HAVILAH:** That would be right, but I have to take that on notice for the exact date.

## **ANSWER**

The \$75 million campaign target was announced in December 2019.

### **QUESTION THREE**

**Mr COLLINS:** Chair, may I make this offering? I know the Committee does not like the term, "take it on notice", but we would like to try to get back to you with some indication as to time lines.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Mr Collins, you and I have known each other for a long time, you are a thorough professional. I am pretty sure—and I have even described you as one of the State's best arts Ministers, which I am probably going to regret, but yes, I did that—you must have said when you took on the role, "What's the delivery date? What's the completion date we are talking towards, Don?"

**Mr COLLINS:** I have a pretty good idea.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Can you share it with us?

**Mr COLLINS:** And what I am saying and offering, Chair, is if we can take that away with us and see if we cannot come back to the Committee with some indication as to approximate time lines. There are contracts yet to be signed and so on. I think that we should be able to give you ballpark dates.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Do you get the frustration, though? This is now five, six years since it started. We do not have a business case, we do not have an opening target date, we do not know where Willow Grove is going. Six years into the process these should be pretty easy questions to answer, should they not, Mr Collins? I am not blaming you for the past six years, but you should be able to have these answers?

**Mr COLLINS:** I am trying to assist the Committee, Mr Shoebridge, in whatever I can do. I am not stonewalling you on this. I hear what you are saying, and if we can get some at least indicative dates, then I will do so. But I would just like to get that clarified elsewhere and come back to the Committee, if that is all right.

### **ANSWER**

The indicative date is subject to further design development, planning consent, and builder procurement. The project completion date will be known once a builder is appointed.