

Submission
No 22

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Organisation: Ultimo Village Voice

Date received: 1 August 2016

Ultimo Village Voice

Email: ultimovillagevoice@gmail.com

1 August 2016

The Director, Standing Committee 4, Inquiry into Museums and Galleries
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

By email: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2403>

Dear Sirs

Re: Proposed Sale of Powerhouse Museum

Ultimo Village Voice is a community group of Ultimo residents.

Our group entirely opposes the sale of the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo and its relocation to Parramatta, while firmly supporting the establishment of new cultural facilities in Western Sydney.

The Powerhouse Museum has had a permanent home in Harris Street, Ultimo, since 1893 when it opened as the Technological Museum beside the Sydney Technical College. After it moved to its current premises it has been a central part of everyday life for Ultimo residents. As Ultimo is consistently stripped of its traditional assets to make way for profitable apartment blocks, the Powerhouse is one of our few remaining icons. We cannot stress more highly the cultural, historical, social and economic importance of the Powerhouse in Ultimo.

We welcome the development of cultural facilities in Western Sydney, but it should not be at the expense of unique local assets. Culture is not a limited commodity. There is no such thing as a fixed number of museums a city may have, hence one does not have to, and indeed should never, close a museum to open another one. The urban agglomeration of Sydney is large enough for two Science Museums, and NSW can afford them.

The activation of the Goods Line linking Central Station to the Powerhouse and onto Darling Harbour opens up the opportunity to bring visitors, international and local, to the southern end of the peninsula and the attendance at the Powerhouse has increased since the opening of the Goods Line.

We are deeply concerned that there has been a total lack of genuine community consultation and we urge the Government to conduct meaningful consultation with the community.

We believe the answer is to better support the original Powerhouse in Ultimo and at the same time, to establish a new affiliate "Parramatta Powerhouse" in the western suburbs as they

deserve top-class cultural institutions of their choosing, using some of the inestimable profits the Government is making from sales of other high-value Sydney sites.

Yours faithfully

Chair
Ultimo Village Voice