

**Submission
No 81**

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

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As a child I grew up in London where museums were a part of my weekend and holiday ritual. When I moved to Ultimo 6 years ago I was delighted to find that my grandchildren were really keen to go to the Powerhouse museum as part of their visit to grandma. The Powerhouse is a part of the whole history of the area and with the Maritime Museum and the Goods Line it forms an informative and exciting centre of information and entertainment. Capital cities are, worldwide, where you expect to find museums. They are an integral part of a visit to the city of Sydney. Apart from the as yet undisclosed cost of dismantling moving and storing of exhibits and the undisclosed cost to the taxpayer of building a museum in Parramatta, it is ridiculous to expect visitors to Sydney to travel out to Parramatta to visit one museum. Schools which now include the Powerhouse on their itinerary for their city excursions are hardly going to do a side trip to Parramatta. Parramatta deserves a museum that relents its own history and is more relevant to the area. Let's not kid ourselves this is not about spreading the cultural assets to other areas it is about greed and development. This area of Sydney is already overdeveloped. We need to hang on to resources that compensate in some way, the locals for a lack of open spaces. Already Mike Baird is unsure what he wants to do with the space, already we have a subsidiary of the Powerhouse in Baulkham Hills which is poorly attended. We cannot be the first city in the world to close a museum because like many others that I have talked with I am sure this is what it is a closure not a relocation and the people of Sydney and the visitors to Sydney will be poorer off if we let this money grabbing, short sighted government have its way.