

Submission
No 47

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Organisation: Snowy Scheme Museum/Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Collection
Inc.

Date received: 10 August 2016

Summary of points raised in Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Collection Incorporated (Snowy Scheme Museum Adaminaby) Submission to the NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into museums and galleries

Specific terms of reference

a) NSW government policy, funding and support for museums and galleries, museum and gallery buildings and heritage collections, including volunteer managed museums and museums managed by councils

1. The Snowy Scheme Museum / Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Collection Incorporated (ASSC) is located in Adaminaby (the town where the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme was launched in 1949). This volunteer managed museum, displays, curates, stores, as well and providing reference and educational facilities focussing on the construction phase of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme (1949-1974). The museum was opened to the public in October 2011 and has hosted individuals, families and groups from within Australia and from overseas. The ASSC has established a Memorandum of Understanding with Snowy Hydro Limited.

The Snowy Mountains Scheme is acknowledged as being,

- i. the birthplace of multicultural Australia
- ii. the most significant engineering project in Australia
- iii. an enduring water resource management and clean energy legacy

2. It is crucial that all organisations (particularly volunteer managed) have access to adequate funding, grants, skills training, knowledge sharing and workshops.

3. There needs to be a greater and deeper understanding and acknowledgment from government and other publically funded institutions of the voluntary contributions which are made to operate volunteer managed museums and galleries. These volunteer operated facilities are operated for the benefit of all.

4. Government grant funding is allocated competitively to both publically and volunteer operated museums, yet to obtain funding, significant unpaid contributions are required to prepare applications which can place volunteer operated museums at a resourcing disadvantage.

b) potential funding impacts on museums and galleries affected by council amalgamations

1. Recent council amalgamations must not be allowed to impact on the viability of community museums and organisations.

- i. museums offer a unique opportunity build community resilience, share common history and educate current and future generations
- ii. there must be no reduction in resources and funding available to such organisations

c) opportunities to revitalise the structure, reach, and impact of museums and galleries, and their research and collecting priorities

1. Technology, science and engineering heritage is under-represented in large public institutions
2. Smaller regional and specialist museums are crucial in preserving and educating this heritage

d) access to the collections of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, the Australian Museum and any other state collections held in trust for the people of New South Wales, and programs that promote physical and online access

1. The ASSC has in the past benefitted from its relationships with larger public institutions.

e) the sale of the Powerhouse Museum site in Ultimo and its proposed move to Parramatta, and whether there are alternative strategies to support museum development

1. The common belief is that the proposed sale of the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo is more about a financial windfall to the government than providing a world class facility

f) the development and transparency of advice to the government on priorities for NSW museums and galleries

1. There is little understanding (and a lack of confidence) of how recent changes will impact on museums and their visitors

g) the impact of the efficiency dividend on the budgets of museums and galleries over the last 10 years, and funding levels compared to other states

1. It is a reasonable expectation that museums and galleries are well managed and have well prepared preservation, curatorial and education plans

h) the economic impact of museums and galleries on cultural tourism, and their role in supporting the visitor economy in Sydney and regional New South Wales

1. Regional based museums and galleries have a clearly established economic and social benefit to their communities
2. The tourism sector, in which the NSW Government is represented by Destination NSW has growth strategies which are heavily reliant cultural and heritage tourism
3. It is clearly evident that a town and its local businesses such as Adaminaby will benefit from the multiplier effect of visitors to the area who are initially attracted by the presence of the ASSC

i) any other related matter.

1. A long term funding formula needs to be established so that public and community museums and galleries can plan and develop into the future
2. Engineering and industrial heritage needs to be properly conserved so that current and future generations are able to appreciate and learn from this technology