

**Submission
No 86**

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Name: Mr Peter Murray

Date received: 10 August 2016

to the Hon Robert Borsak
The Legislative Council: General Purpose standing Committee No.4

Inquiry into museums and galleries

Dear Chair,

I lodge the following submission to your committee for consideration under item [i] of the terms of reference of the inquiry into museums and galleries.

Given the broad nature of the terms of reference of your committee I feel it is an ideal opportunity to look at the current proposed plans for the significant extension of the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

The Gallery is already a very large venue extending over many floors housing a multiple of sub-galleries. The proposed extension, almost doubling the current site area, can only exacerbate visitors' feelings of being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the available displays. I believe far better to establish a separate significant gallery venue, as has been done in London with the Tate and the Tate Modern, rather than cramming everything onto one site. Increasing the size of the current gallery would put further pressure on the limited single road access to the site and Mrs Macquarie's Chair.

By locating an off-shoot to the Gallery at a new site the planned encroachment onto and alienate of significant public open parkland space adjoining the Botanical Gardens and Mrs Macquarie's Chair can be avoided. Open space that is already at a premium in the city.

Possibly already considered, but one option for a new gallery space would be the existing Balmain power station, currently part of UrbanGrowth NSW's Bays Precinct lands. A huge rugged building in a brilliant harbour side location that could well serve as workshops, storage and display spaces for the Gallery's modern art collections. With the adjacent overseas cruise terminal; the potential for ferry links to Circular Quay and Darling Harbour; and the residential and commercial development likely on the balance of adjoining Bays Precinct lands the site is well placed and accessible to a large population catchment.

I trust the above may be considered within the terms of your inquiry.

Yours sincerely
Peter Murray

8 August 2016