

**Submission  
No 88**

## **INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**

**Name:** Mr Robert Pauling

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## Proposal to move Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta

(d) Access to the collection. What studies have been done to ascertain the interest in the MAAS collection at Parramatta? I would expect that it would attract fewer tourist visits if moved away from Central Sydney.

(e) Sale of Powerhouse Museum site. Has it been officially announced that the site will be sold for demolition? The Powerhouse building is an integral part of the MAAS story. Has this site been selected because of its development potential over and above other factors.

Has a cost/benefit analysis been done? In recent years there has been substantial building work on the Harris Street entrance and also the new entrance at ground level. All this will have been wasted if the building is now demolished. Given the nature of the collection it would be a very expensive operation to remove it to Parramatta.

Heritage for the NSW Government seems to be a downgraded concern including with not accepting expert advice, eg. The Sirius building. Even the Minister seems to have moved to a pro-developer stance instead of heritage.

(f) Development and transparency. I have seen very little written about museums for the Parramatta area, including those already there and those proposed. What has been done to develop a plan for museums and galleries at Parramatta? Transparency seems to be lacking. A relevant major museum could become an attraction but this should not happen by uprooting a successful museum from elsewhere.

I understand that some of the academic staff at University of Western Sydney have in the past been helpful; eg. with saving the Female Factory at Parramatta which survives to tell a story of an important part of our history. The staff could again be usefully involved in developing a plan for museums and galleries in Parramatta.