

**Submission  
No 124**

## **INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**

**Name:** Mr Nicholas McCallum

**Date received:** 14 August 2016

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Regarding the closing and selling off of the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo:

As a someone who spent many days of my childhood exploring the knowledge-filled rooms of the Powerhouse, I am aghast to think my own children will not be given the same opportunities of adventure and learning in the heart of a great global city.

The Baird government has not communicated why Sydney should close and shift one its best and most popular museums. There has been no clear reason stated as to why something so unique, in such a prime position in Sydney - and a few minutes walk from Darling Harbour, one of the greatest family attractions within the inner city.

It is true that Sydney's west needs and deserves more museums and temples of knowledge and exploration - but these should not come at the expense of existing museums. Governments do not build new hospitals in one part of a city in order close them in others. This would be cutting off our nose to spite our face.

The Powerhouse should remain where it is and the Museum of Arts Sciences expanded. We can have more and we should have more but it should not come at a loss to what we already have. It is the Powerhouse for a reason. The people of Sydney and NSW should not lose it.

The MAAS has a grand collection and it requires more room which can be displayed and exhibited in Parramatta while maintaining the home in the heart of city. Shutting the Powerhouse will come at a huge cost, financially and culturally.

I will cling to hope that the committee will see the sense that future generations should be lucky enough to enjoy the great collection of the MAAS in its rightful and proper home in Ultimo - the marvellous Powerhouse, in all its grandeur, right in the heart of our great city.

Sincerely,  
Nicholas McCallum