

**Submission
No 145**

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Name: Mrs Vicki Lindsay

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I would like to make a submission on why I believe moving the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta and selling off the Sydney site would be a disastrous consequence for the museum itself, the residents of Sydney, the education of future generations, and the interest of tourists.

I live in Newcastle and my husband and I are both retired. Our son lives and works in Sydney, so we come down on occasions to visit him and do some of the many tourist activities around this beautiful harbour city. We have visited the Powerhouse Museum a number of times over the last few years at its current site, however we would not have bothered to make the trek to Parramatta on any of these occasions.

There is no logic behind the proposed move of this museum from its current iconic and historic site to Parramatta, approximately 25 kilometres away. I understand there is enough material in storage to open up a completely new museum in Parramatta, if that is really the motive driving this decision making process. But in reality the motive behind this appears to be being driven by greed. It is no secret that the NSW Government wants to sell off this very valuable site for high rise residential development.

If you look at any major European city, you will find their museums are always strategically placed in the main city centre where the majority of tourists go. They are not placed 25 kilometres away. Just three examples are:

The British Museum in London
The Louvre in Paris
The Deutsches Museum in Munich

We have visited all of these museums and they are only three of many. Every major European city has its main museum in the heart of the city. European countries value their history and heritage so much more than the current NSW Government seems to value ours. We have travelled extensively in Europe and seen firsthand how the inner city areas are treasured and protected from modern development. Certainly there is modern development including high rise in all large cities, but it is always done on the outskirts of the historic city centre in order to preserve the city's character and identity.

Visitors to Sydney, both domestic and foreign, want to see the city centre and harbour, and they are unlikely to travel to Parramatta, particularly if they have limited time. If the world class Powerhouse Museum were to close, NSW would lose a precious opportunity to showcase its history, culture and technological achievements not only to Australians, but to the world.

Although our history of settlement is very short, compared to European standards, that is all the more reason to treasure and enhance what we have, not replace a beautiful and very historic building with modern, transient high rise. This is a planning process based around profit, which will destroy the character and soul of the city rather than enhance it.

Vicki Lindsay
14th August, 2016