

**Supplementary  
Submission  
No 148o**

**INQUIRY INTO INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND  
GALLERIES**

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## INTRODUCTION TO FIVE ANALYSES OF GOVERNMENT'S FALSEHOODS AND MISLEADING OF THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM RIVERBANK/ULTIMO PRECINCT PROJECTS: Dr Lindsay Sharp

6 August, 2018

In 2016 the following was written by Nick Cohen about Brexit and Boris Johnson, the British ex-Foreign Secretary and dishonest buffoon. Sadly it rings entirely true about the Government of NSW and their excruciatingly inept 'planning' for these projects:

'I fear his [Chairman Parliamentary Select Committee, Westminster] evisceration of Johnson won't matter. Men like Johnson thrive because they know that hardly anyone cares about the detail enough to go to the Treasury select committee website [just like the NSW Upper House Inquiry into Museums] and watch its members expose him. Johnson [just like the NSW Government] understands that in the 21st century a... cheap stunt [like claiming the 'Extended Final Business Case' answers all questions] can take you a long way, maybe all the way to Downing Street [Macquarie Street, again]. **Lies take time to unpick, and by the time your accusers have finished unpicking them, the bored audience has clicked on to another screen.'**

This is the situation we face in NSW as the rolling catastrophe of 'moving' the Powerhouse Museum continues down the slope towards the cliff edge. The 'independent' Mayor of Parramatta has held a soiree to 'celebrate' this disaster [July/August 2018] while apparently lacking the wit or attention span to even interrogate whether the Riverbank site will safely house the new museum over a period of as little as fifty years. The attached document which analyses Government's 'Flood risk report' demonstrates this tragically is not the case.

Whether or not this latest tranche of analytical submissions helps rally forceful resistance to this folly, even among the 'bored audience', it is essential that the many fault lines, falsehoods and follies of this 'planning' be recorded for history. The [approximately] 4,500 pages of 'planning' documents Government was forced to dump in a redacted format are testament to the extent of this catastrophic planning failure. Even within its own terms they fail in almost every respect. The fact that Cabinet accepted them and passed the project through to the next phase is equally a testament to Government failure to reach its own minimum criteria. The fact that the media have failed to fully expose the three core drivers which determined Government's course of action and underlying motivations, is also sadly revealed to be the case. With notable exceptions the fourth estate has signally failed to expose Government's mendacity and ineptness. The Daily Telegraph, a Government organ which perhaps should be renamed 'Australian Pravda', has relentlessly pretended this was an example of class warfare between a CBD elite and the culturally impoverished citizens of Western Sydney while obviously failing to note that these projects were aimed at spoon feeding rent-seeking developer business elites of both locations under the false guise of cultural equity. The idea that a brilliant heritage site just 800 metres from Riverbank [Cumberland Hospital/Female Factory] would provide a world class location for restored buildings and a new museum at far lower cost and wastage has conveniently been excised from view. Thus the principal reasons and motivations for the Government of NSW in promoting these incredibly wasteful, foolish and unprincipled projects are shown to be:

- Providing sites for development colleagues at discounted/'amended' super density ratios
- Brazen pork barrelling to win key constituencies in Western Sydney
- Obtaining future benefits and employment after politics

The following five analytical papers- each an individual submission- outline the glaring faults of key Government planning documents revealed after the Upper House forced their release in June 2018. This action alone demonstrates democracy is not yet entirely deceased in NSW and we owe the Inquiry a great debt thereby.