

**Submission
No 8**

**INQUIRY INTO GOVERNMENT'S MANAGEMENT OF THE
POWERHOUSE MUSEUM AND OTHER MUSEUMS AND
CULTURAL PROJECTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Mr Peter Wotton

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One of the quiet glories of the PowerHouse Museum is the steam floor. Power houses are traditionally run by steam! A museum without steam can hardly be called a power house!

The steam floor contains many steam driven engines, generators and pumps. When steam is on the house, this floor becomes active. The hiss of escaping steam and the smell of hot oil with the unfamiliar sound of steam driven stationary engines is evocative of a bygone industrial age and one worthy of an unique industrial museum.

The particular glory of the Bolton and Watt Beam Engine as one of the oldest existing operating steam engines adds lustre to the PowerHouse Museum particularly when operating under steam.

If The Museum moves, all the steam driven machines will be consigned to hidden storage for ever.

The Beam Engines will be driven by an electric motor - a travesty for this magnificent machine. There is no place for live steam at Parramatta. All exhibits will be static and motionless

Any movement to destroy this museum in its industrial setting is to be deplored. Many cities around the world would nurture a museum of its scope and stature.

The PowerHouse is our mini Smithsonian! We cannot lose it.