

**Submission
No 12**

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

Name: Ms Una Williamson

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on what seems an exercise in bad planning.

The proposal will see destruction of Sydney's industrial heritage with the proposed demolition of the Powerhouse Museum, Australia's only museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. Opened in 1988, the museum was the result of adaptive reuse of the defunct 19 century Ultimo Power House and adjacent tram sheds. Now 32 years later, it is to be torn down to make way for high rise towers under the State Government's place strategy for the Pyrmont Peninsula as an employment hub. Another publicly owned site to be sold into private hands with scant attention paid to its heritage connections to inner Sydney.

Relocation of the Powerhouse Museum, albeit to a much smaller site on the Parramatta River owned by Parramatta Council, will take the museum from its roots in inner Sydney to a purpose built new development with about 25% capacity of the Ultimo Power House Museum. Where will the large transport exhibits currently housed in the Power House at Ultimo be located? Two heritage buildings will be demolished for the new building and the cost of relocation from Ultimo will apparently be around \$1.5 billion. The Parramatta site is flood prone and its location 15 kilometres to the west presents access issues. Pyrmont Ultimo is well served by public transport and pedestrian links to the City making it easier for city dwellers and tourists to access.

A better alternative would be to drop the relocation plans and upgrade the Ultimo Powerhouse Museum to a higher standard. A new museum more culturally and historically suited to Parramatta should be considered. There are too many negative aspects for the proposal to be considered anything other than bad planning.

Yours sincerely

(retired town planner and urban designer)