

**Submission  
No 46**

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

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I wish to state my firm conviction that the NSW government's plans to relocate the important heritage collection of the Powerhouse Museum away from its present location (in a building in Ultimo that is an important heritage structure in itself) is totally WRONG.

The current location – close to the heart of Sydney and in an important industrial-heritage area – is an major factor in the museum's success and importance.

I acknowledge the claim that the residents of western Sydney deserve such a collection located on their doorstep. But that is no reason to destroy the existing museum.

A second centre could and should be constructed in Parramatta or another western Sydney centre, and part of the Powerhouse Museum's existing collection – plus other, newly acquired items (especially those with specific relevance to western Sydney, or with a focus on a particular aspect of the Powerhouse's scope) – should be displayed there \*on rotation\* from the main collection.

[A prime example of such a subsidiary collection is provided by London's Victorian and Albert Museum, whose second centre is the wonderful Museum of Childhood.]

Let this new chapter in the Powerhouse Museum's history be one of growth and glory, not of failure and diminishment. And let it spell a new chapter in the museum's mission of education and enlightenment – for the people of western Sydney, but NOT at the cost of the city's other inhabitants.