

Submission
No 58

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

Organisation: Inner Sydney Greens

Date Received: 11 May 2020

May 11, 2020

Submission to the NSW Upper House Enquiry re plans for the Powerhouse Museum from the Inner Sydney Greens.

First, we strongly support the development of a new cultural centre in Paramatta, but a) not the inappropriate one in a site at increasing risk of flooding, as currently proposed, and b) not at the expense of destroying the present Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo.

Second, we note that compared to comparable cities overseas, Sydney has relatively few museums and, so, to destroy the Powerhouse Museum will increase this lack and diminish the appeal of Sydney as a tourist destination. We know of no government elsewhere that has demolished a major state museum less than 30 years after it opened in a landmark building.

Third, we note that the present collection in the museum, notably in science and engineering (brilliantly displayed at present), is unparalleled in Australia and cannot be housed in its entirety with the building currently planned to replace it in Paramatta.

Fourth, we note that a sizeable part of the present Powerhouse collection is the result of gifts from private donors who trusted that their bequest would continue to be held within the present setting; furthermore, a reduction in such bequests is likely if the present museum is destroyed.

Please contact
letter.

in the case of any queries regarding this