

**Submission
No 101**

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

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Date Received: 16 May 2020

Parramatta's true value, re the Power House

Here is an example of the Government and their awfulizers sad knowledge of Parramatta's true colonial value. The MAAS CEO was allegedly asked in a consultation webinar; 'what items in the future MAAS collection, would reflect Parramatta?' She named a heritage collection of Eels football jerseys and a car manufacturing sign from Parramatta road. Cynically one might say she missed, a piece of asbestos from a fibro house and a rusty shopping trolley fished out of the creek at the DJ car park.

There was no mention of the cleared grass lands of Aboriginal fauna farms, their song-lines, and their swimming in the clear waters of Little Coogee, nor of Pemulwuy and the First Nation wars. There was no reference to our 1820 National Heritage Female Factory, our World Heritage Old Government House, our 1930 Roxy theatre or our diminishing 19th century heritage homes, some of which are to make way for the Parramatta MAAS milk crate. I.e. Willow Grove and St Georges Tce. Nor was anything said about Parramatta being at the heart and the crossroads of 19th century enterprise, trade, the gold rush, the wool industry, the orchards and weekend escapes for weddings at grand hotels like the Woolpack and the Red Cow. Do they talk of Governor Kings first brewery or the influence of Macquarie and Macarthur. Then there was Governor Fitzroy and his wish to make Parramatta the seat of Governance in NSW, but for, his wife Marys tragic death in a carriage accident, at the gates of Government house. Of course, there is a lot more firsts in Parramatta, in observatories, sports, art, design and science, the list is long.

Then there were our War histories, and the first second and third waves of refugee intakes that shared with us their talents, culture, and cuisines. But the Sydney centric awfulizers, with no concept of Parramatta's true wealth and history can only mention Eels jerseys and used car signs as statements to our value. We are more than a dormitory suburb; we are the Cradle City and first food bowl of the Nation. We are now the central city of multi-cultural growth and wealth, and as such deserve and demand respect for our history and our story...

Leave the Powerhouse where it sits, give us a Parramatta museum of heritage and culture, at a place that respects our first nation, colonial and immigration history.

WHY are our representatives, bureaucrats, and administrators so deaf to our wishes? Why does consultation come after the plans are made and set in motion by these same people?