

**Submission
No 140**

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

Name: Mr Keith Baker

Date Received: 15 June 2020

Dear Mr Borsak

I am writing to you as a professional engineer who is very much involved in the preservation of Australia's engineering and industrial heritage. I particularly wish to draw your urgent attention to my concern regarding the Boulton & Watt beam engine and to the engine's accompanying live steam exhibition in the Powerhouse Museum.

This beam engine is widely recognised as the most significant object in the Museum's collection and arguably the most significant technological artefact in Australia. Apart from its age and international rarity, its significance is greatly enhanced by its location in a former steam powerhouse as the key exhibit in the continuity of technological development of steam engines for stationary power and in railway locomotives.

Expert advice is that the beam engine built by James Watt in 1785 is delicately assembled and aligned and should not be moved.

The limited space and lack of context proposed in a circulation space at Parramatta is insulting to the heritage collection and to the significance of the Boulton & Watt beam engine in particular.

I urge you to act to help reverse this disastrous plan proposed by the New South Wales Government, and keep the Boulton & Watt engine with its live steam collection in its present location in Ultimo.

Yours sincerely

Keith Baker FIEAust, M.ICOMOS
15 June 2020