

**Submission
No 147**

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

Name: Mr Simon Beck

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I write to express my concern regarding the seemingly inevitable closure of the Ultimo based Power House Museum.

It is a great idea to open an additional exhibition and event space in Parramatta but the cultural essence of Sydney is being lost with the decision to close the one at Ultimo.

I am a former investment banker and lived in London for many years. The value placed on cultural institutions in the UK far exceeds Sydney's. Sydney should be aiming for world class civic amenity like London. Not world class mediocrity in our cultural heritage values.

The main reasons to keep the Powerhouse at Ultimo are:

1. The Ultimo site is now a vibrant centre of public space and utility. Formerly it was the run-down sidebar of Sydney with no transport. Only now that it is highly sort after land is it being sold off to developers.
2. Sydney City has precious few first rate museums and cultural centres. They should be preserved.
3. Technical reasons. The Boulton and Watt steam engine really should be kept in working order at the very safe site it is currently at. Not on a flood plain at Parramatta in non-working display.
4. The new light rail link to the area now means that families can enjoy the Ultimo site.
5. There is really no pressing need to close this museum. We hardly need more apartments and commercial premises in this spot. Brownfield sites and other derelict buildings should be the target of such upgrades.

If this government reversed its decision and restored the Powerhouse to its former glory then this Liberal government could rightly claim to be both supporting the community and managing the economy.

Ultimately the health of our city will be driven by culture institutions, not casinos.