

REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS BEFORE

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – LEGAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

UNCORRECTED

At Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, on Friday 16 November 2018

The Committee met at 3.00 p.m.

PRESENT

The Hon. Robert Borsak (Chair)
The Hon. Scott Farlow
The Hon. Trevor Khan
The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane
The Hon. Walt Secord
Mr David Shoebridge (Deputy Chair)

The CHAIR: Welcome to the twelfth hearing of the Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Legal Affairs inquiry into museums and galleries in New South Wales. Before I commence, I acknowledge the Gadigal people, who are the traditional custodians of this land. I pay respects to the elders past and present of the Eora nation, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present. Today the Committee will hear from representatives of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. Before we commence, I will make some brief comments about procedures for today's hearing. Today's hearing is open to the public and is being broadcast live on the Parliament's website. A transcript of today's hearing will be placed on the Committee's website when it becomes available.

In accordance with the broadcasting guidelines, while members of the media may film or record Committee members and witnesses, people in the public gallery should not be the primary focus of any filming or photography. I also remind media representatives that they must take responsibility for what they publish about the Committee's proceedings. It is important to remember that parliamentary privilege does not apply to what witnesses may say outside of their evidence at this hearing. I urge witnesses to be careful about any comments they may make to the media or to others after they complete their evidence, as such comments would not be protected by parliamentary privilege if another person decided to take an action for defamation. The guidelines for the broadcasting of proceedings are available from the secretariat.

There may be some questions that a witness could answer only if they had more time or with certain documents at hand. In those circumstances witnesses are advised that they can take a question on notice and provide an answer within 21 days. Witnesses are advised that any messages should be delivered to Committee members through the Committee secretariat. To aid the audibility of this hearing, I remind both Committee members and witnesses to speak into the microphones. In addition, several seats have been reserved near the loudspeakers for persons in the public gallery who may have hearing difficulties. I ask everyone to please turn off their mobile phones or turn them to silent for the duration of the hearing.

ANDREW ELLIOTT, Acting Director, Chief Financial Officer, and Director of Corporate Resources, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, sworn and examined

BARNEY GLOVER, President, Board of Trustees, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, on former oath

The CHAIR: Do you want to make a short opening statement?

Professor GLOVER: Thank you for the opportunity to appear again before the Committee as President of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences [MAAS]. I will seek to respond to your questions. Where they relate to operational matters or matters of more detail I will seek the advice of the Acting Director of the museum, Andrew Elliott. This year was one of the most significant in the history of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. As you are aware, in April 2018 the New South Wales Government announced a once-in-a-generation investment by the New South Wales Government in the museum, the city of Parramatta, the people of New South Wales and our national and international visitors. Western Sydney is home to more than half of Greater Sydney's population and Parramatta is its geographical centre. The new museum flagship site, embedded in the heart of Australia's fastest-growing community will be a vibrant focal point for knowledge exchange for decades to come. This has been not only a significant investment for the people of New South Wales but also in the arts and I congratulate the Government on their commitment and foresight.

The New South Wales Government also announced its intention to retain a creative industry's presence at the museum's Ultimo site. This will include a new design and fashion museum to showcase the world-class design and fashion collection that the MAAS holds and to celebrate the best of Australian and international practice. The MAAS trust's role in this project and in the museum generally is governed by both the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Act and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences regulations. The MAAS Act provides provisions to appoint the trust and its powers and responsibilities.

The MAAS regulations provide further guidance on the role of the director. The director is given authority under the MAAS regulations for the administration and management of the museum and for any services provided in connection with the museum. This provides the director with control over operations on a day-to-day basis. The MAAS regulations also provide that the director provide the trustees with a report on the activities of the museum and its staff through regular trust meetings, and other communication channels and the trust, in turn, provides oversight and input using our experience and skills. The trust supported and provided high-level oversight to the director and staff as they delivered the preliminary business case following the centralisation of cultural infrastructure projects into Create NSW. We remained a key stakeholder in the final business case planning process through membership on the project steering committee and through providing guidance and oversight to the museum as they worked in collaboration with Create NSW.

Through the final business case planning process the trust and the MAAS director strongly advocated that the MAAS is a single organisation, inclusive of its collection, facilities, stakeholders and professional staff working fluidly across the current sites—the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo, the historic Sydney Observatory in Millers Point, the world-class collection and conservation facility at the Museums Discovery Centre in Castle Hill and its coming presence in Parramatta. This connected vision has been realised in the Government's announcements and will result in more people being able to experience more of the globally renowned collection of Australia's first and only applied arts and sciences museum. The trust is actively involved in the delivery of the MAAS project supporting the director and staff and is currently represented in the project governance structure through representation on the project steering committee, the project control groups for Ultimo, Western Sydney and the collection relocation. The trust also regularly receives briefings from representatives of the Government at each of our regular trust meetings.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the museum executive, its workforce and volunteers who continue to deliver acclaimed exhibitions and programs across three sites, all while planning for the new flagship site in Parramatta, an expansion of Museums Discovery Centre site in Castle Hill, and contributing the business case for Ultimo. We look forward to the period ahead where the museum vision to lead, inspire and transform will continue to catalyse creative expression and provoke curious minds. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Dolla Merrillees, who made a significant contribution during her time as director of the museum. Dolla led a number of initiatives and pursued new opportunities for the museum including, most critically, the proposed development of MAAS's flagship museum in Parramatta. She also maintained an outstanding exhibition program by showcasing the museum's extensive world-class collection and attracting major touring programs to the museum. The trust thanks Dolla for her leadership and contribution.

Finally, I would like to welcome the newly appointed chief executive, Lisa Havilah. I was involved in the recruitment process and I congratulate Lisa on her appointment. Lisa Havilah has been a champion of

New South Wales cultural life for many years, most recently steering the transformation of Carriageworks into the cultural hub that it is today. Under Lisa's helm, MAAS will deliver a bold new museum that extends beyond traditional exhibition spaces to deliver world-class programming and experiences that will engage and excite both existing and new audiences for generations to come. The trust is delighted to welcome Lisa and is certain that she will drive the Parramatta development with her signature passion for the cultural sector and for Western Sydney.

Mr ELLIOTT: Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today. I want to begin by providing a summary of the key highlights from the museum in 2017-18 and offer a preview of our offer in 2018-19. This year MAAS continued to enhance its collection, programs and exhibitions to provide our audiences with memorable experiences across our three venues. In 2017-18 we increased visitation by 14 per cent on the previous year, demonstrating our ability to offer exhibitions and experiences that resonate with our visitors. Our summer blockbuster touring exhibition, Learn & Play! teamLab Future Park, presented by Toyota, was a resounding success for MAAS this year. The exhibition achieved visitation of more than 146,000 and it was an extremely popular offer to our family audiences who were able to enjoy the immersive, magical world of art, technology and science.

During the year our signature festivals, Sydney Science Festival and Sydney Design Festival, continued to unite our city through programming and engagement with industry and our community. Held in August 2017, Sydney Science Festival celebrated and showcased Sydney's diverse and multidisciplinary science and innovation community and attracted more than 70,000 people to events across Sydney. Likewise, Sydney Design Festival was relaunched in March 2018 to great success with more than 120 programs from over 70 partners held across Sydney. MAAS was also recognised for its achievements in 2017-18 with the International Council of Museums [ICOM] Institution Award for its major touring exhibition Faith Fashion Fusion. This award further enhanced our reputation for curating and presenting groundbreaking exhibitions in a national and international context.

There is no doubt this year has been defined by opportunities for MAAS to grow into the future. As discussed by the president, in April we welcomed the announcement by the New South Wales Government that MAAS Parramatta will become the anchor of a new Parramatta arts and cultural precinct offering a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a new museum for the future in Western Sydney. In addition, the Government announced its intention to maintain an arts and cultural space in Ultimo, including a design and fashion museum, and to increase the capacity of the Museums Discovery Centre in Castle Hill.

These announcements have cemented MAAS as Australia's contemporary museum for excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences. MAAS looks forward to continuing to work with government, industry and, importantly, the community to develop the State's largest museum. At the centre of the new museum is our audience and we are excited to continue to grow our relationship with the people of Parramatta and Western Sydney. MAAS is already actively engaged in the region with longstanding partnerships with organisations such as Penrith Regional Gallery, Information and Cultural Exchange, and through our education outreach with local schools.

Over the coming years we will be exploring how we can continue to bring the experience of MAAS from our existing sites to communities right across Sydney and New South Wales. To achieve this we will be working in collaboration and co-design with partners in education, industry, culture and community, connecting local, regional and national contexts to global perspectives through the intersections of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics [STEAM]. I want to thank the MAAS team for their integrity and dedication over the past year. MAAS is a workforce of talented and committed professionals that passionately work across disciplines and sites while continuing to deliver exceptional experiences for our visitors.

Looking forward, we have an exciting year coming up at the museum and I am happy to present you with a preview of what is on offer across our sites. Visiting Australia for the first time, and exclusive to the Powerhouse Museum, Star Wars Identities allows visitors of all ages to explore their own identity and learn about the forces that shape us through a series of interactive stations within the exhibition.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: To the Chair, we only have a limited amount of time. This is sounding more like an annual report than an opening statement. I would be happy for it to be tabled, particularly as I see you turning over yet another page.

Mr ELLIOTT: I have three paragraphs to read.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I am in the Chair's hands.

The CHAIR: If you can table the document so that we can start with questions. We have only a limited time.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Unless there is something crucial you want to draw our attention to.

The CHAIR: It sounds like a travelogue.

Mr ELLIOTT: As long as I can table this and have it on *Hansard*.

The CHAIR: Of course.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But if there is anything crucial in the last three paragraphs that you want to draw our attention to.

Mr ELLIOTT: I did understand it was my right to deliver an opening statement.

The CHAIR: A brief opening statement.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: As I say, if there is anything crucial in the last three paragraphs.

Professor GLOVER: We are talking about three paragraphs, Chair.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Let us do it, finish it.

The CHAIR: Do it.

Mr ELLIOTT: Also opening this summer season at the Powerhouse Museum is Akira Isogawa, known for his fusion of Asian tradition and Australian ease. Akira is one of the country's most loved and celebrated designers. The exhibition is the first to explore his career of more than 25 years, revealing the background impulses and cultural influences that have contributed to the making of a fashion original. In December MAAS will also launch *The Ideal Home*, an exhibition and public program series that seeks to explore Australian experiences of home across the past 100 years. *The Ideal Home* is a partnership between the MAAS and Penrith Regional Gallery, which will take over the entire Penrith Regional Gallery's site, as well as extending to a satellite exhibition of modernist art and design at MAAS venue the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

Finally, the 2018-19 education program will provide teachers and students with a year round sweep of on-demand and scheduled experiences available to schools online via video conferencing and on site via excursion to the three MAAS venues. Connection to the curriculum lies at the heart of each of our school experiences. Last year we welcomed nearly 70,000 students and we hope to engage even more this year. I also want to reiterate Professor Glover's thanks to the MAAS team of employees and volunteers. Without them the experiences we offer our visitors across our three sites would not be possible.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Mr Elliott, when did you start with the Powerhouse?

Mr ELLIOTT: On 16 January 2016.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: In what position, the chief financial officer?

Mr ELLIOTT: The director of corporate resources and chief financial officer.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: In the preparation of budgets for 2016-17 and 2017-18, had there been an increase or decrease in expenditure on maintenance at the Ultimo site?

Mr ELLIOTT: I would have to take that question on notice.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: There has been some coverage in the *Sydney Morning Herald* about the community concern that there had been a concerted campaign to engage in maintenance neglect of the Ultimo site to build the case for its move to Parramatta. If you were chief financial officer would you have looked at materials related to the maintenance budget?

Mr ELLIOTT: Certainly. MAAS continues to invest in its building management system and other critical environment infrastructure using capital funding provided by the New South Wales Government and using qualified tradespeople with the specialist skills required to undertake the work. In 2017-18 MAAS invested over \$3 million towards the maintenance of the museum across all sites. Additionally, the New South Wales Government also recently allocated an additional \$1.6 million toward the upgrading of a number of key systems at the museum, including the building management system.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Is that an increase or decrease over previous years' expenditure on maintenance?

Mr ELLIOTT: To answer that accurately, I would have to take that question on notice.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Professor Glover, are you still involved in the Werrington Park Corporate Centre as part of Western Sydney University?

Professor GLOVER: The Werrington Park Corporate Centre is on our campus at Werrington South, yes.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Okay. Are you still involved in the development of a Western Sydney science centre?

Professor GLOVER: No.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Has that plan been dropped?

Professor GLOVER: Yes. We have not pursued that plan for several years. But we did at one stage put together a proposal to create a science centre in a building that was no longer needed for other purposes on the Werrington South campus. We did engage with various parties about whether there was interest in providing some funding to refurbish that space. No funding was available, so the university has moved on to other plans for Werrington South.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: So you have dropped the plan to build a Questacon at Western Sydney University?

Professor GLOVER: Yes. I am more than happy to talk about the university at length, and I would be happy to talk about our plans for Werrington South in detail because it is—

The Hon. WALT SECORD: No, I just wanted to see if there was overlap or whether there was going to be competition with the Powerhouse, but you have—

Professor GLOVER: No.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: —resolved that.

Professor GLOVER: Yes, we have moved from that.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Mr Elliott, what is your current position? Are you acting director?

Mr ELLIOTT: I am currently acting director; that is correct.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: When did you assume the position of acting director?

Mr ELLIOTT: I believe it was June.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Of this year?

Mr ELLIOTT: Of 2018.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: And you will relinquish those responsibilities when Lisa Havilah joins in, I think, January; is that correct?

Mr ELLIOTT: That is correct. Lisa Havilah is slated to join the museum on 7 January 2019.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: You would be familiar with the current discussions about the need for a third musical theatre venue in Sydney?

Mr ELLIOTT: I am aware of discussions, yes.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: What is the status of the current plans for the Ultimo site?

Professor GLOVER: As a member of the project steering committee, can I perhaps answer that question?

The Hon. WALT SECORD: By all means.

Professor GLOVER: Both Andrew and I sit on the project steering committee. I think the Minister is on record as having indicated the desire to create a cultural precinct at Ultimo that would involve a design and fashion museum and there is discussion of a Broadway-style theatre. I think that is the way it is being described. As I understand it, consistent with the decision of the Government, a detailed business case is being developed in relation to that. So that process is underway. As members of the project steering committee, we get reports at each of our project steering committee meetings about progress in relation to Ultimo, and in particular to progress with the business case development for consideration by government.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Where will the theatre be situated on the Ultimo site?

Professor GLOVER: As I understand it and as part of the process at the moment, they are exploring different options and different orientations. They are also seeking guidance from those who run that style of theatre

around the world in terms of the best location, particularly in the context of the buildings that are already on the site. Certainly, no decision has been made in relation to that matter.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: In your opening statement you made reference to the fact that you were on the recruitment or selection panel that resulted in the selection of Lisa Havilah.

Professor GLOVER: That is correct.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: How many people were interviewed for the position?

Professor GLOVER: Three people were interviewed.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: How many people applied for the position?

Professor GLOVER: I can give you an estimate because I cannot remember the exact number. As long as that is acceptable—

The Hon. WALT SECORD: That is fine.

Professor GLOVER: I think it was something in the order of 25 to 28. That is the sort of figure I recall from reading the applications.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: How did you get from 25 or 28 down to three?

Professor GLOVER: There was a shortlisting process involving members of the selection panel.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Mr Elliott, I refer you to the events of 1 February 2018, I think it was, when there was a glittering party attended by some of the stars of Australia's fashion scene at the Powerhouse museum. Do you recall the event?

Mr ELLIOTT: I assume you are referring to the MAAS Ball?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Yes. Did you attend the event?

Mr ELLIOTT: I did attend the MAAS Ball.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: So that I get a sense of it, when did you leave the event; at what time?

Mr ELLIOTT: I believe it was around 10.00 p.m.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: As the chief financial officer [CFO], when were you first aware of the financial position for the event?

Mr ELLIOTT: As chief financial officer, I am overseeing the whole of the organisation's budget. The MAAS Ball was allocated as part of the development and external affairs budget. That budget is used to develop partnerships, promote the museum and build audiences. It is core business of the museum, and following events we do have a debrief and a final costing. So, it was soon after.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Days or weeks?

Mr ELLIOTT: I could not tell you an exact date.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Definitely not months?

Mr ELLIOTT: Not months, no.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It would have been a week or two at best?

Mr ELLIOTT: In that vicinity.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It was a fundraiser, was it not? The invitations went out saying it was a fundraiser; is that right?

Professor GLOVER: Would you like me to answer that question as the president of the board, Mr Shoebidge?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: If there is anything that Mr Elliott has not covered, feel free to come in afterwards.

Professor GLOVER: Thank you.

Mr ELLIOTT: Just to clarify, the MAAS Ball was held to develop, build and establish critical long-term relationships and partnerships for the MAAS Centre for Fashion and to promote the museum's collection. The objectives of the ball were to introduce the Centre for Fashion to key stakeholders, build relationships with key

corporate, industry and cultural partners, raise funding for the Australian Fashion Foundation, increase the MAAS fashion collection, and enhance the reputation of MAAS as the leading public centre for fashion in Australia. Indeed, the ball achieved all of those set objectives.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It was promoted as a fashion fundraiser; that is what I am asking. It was promoted as a fashion fundraiser.

Professor GLOVER: Could I comment then?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Perhaps Mr Elliott can answer my question first rather than state a blurb from prepared notes. Was it promoted as a fundraiser?

Professor GLOVER: If I could answer—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Point of order: I think Mr Elliott outlined what it was in quite some detail.

Professor GLOVER: And included in that answer—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: The question is clear.

Professor GLOVER: Yes, of course it was a fundraiser in part. It was also designed to achieve a number of other objectives. Mr Elliott has outlined those other objectives for the ball. Fundraising—

The CHAIR: Was it designed to be a drunken orgy?

Professor GLOVER: That is a gratuitous comment. Why would we respond to that?

The CHAIR: It is not a gratuitous comment.

Professor GLOVER: It is.

The CHAIR: No, it is a question I am asking of Mr Elliott.

Professor GLOVER: I am answering I am afraid because I am the—

The CHAIR: No, I am asking that of Mr Elliott—

Professor GLOVER: —president of the board of trustees.

The CHAIR: —not of you, Professor Glover.

Professor GLOVER: I think I would like to answer that question.

The CHAIR: You can answer it after he has answered it. I am going to ask him a question after that.

Professor GLOVER: It was not a drunken orgy and it should not be on the record that you should suggest that. We thoroughly investigated claims that were made. I should intervene to say that no evidence suggested illegal activity of the sort you have just described. I have never seen evidence of it—

The CHAIR: Did you or Mr Elliott receive—

Professor GLOVER: —nor have I seen evidence—

The CHAIR: —reports from the [EVIDENCE OMITTED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE 16 AND 21 NOVEMBER 2018], and from a [OMITTED] about the activities going on at the end of the ball and in other parts of the building, in the director's suite for example?

Mr ELLIOTT: MAAS and our security company have no record—

The CHAIR: Mr Elliott, I do not want you to read me written statements; I want you to answer the question.

Mr ELLIOTT: Excuse me, I believe you asked me a question—

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Point of order: He is entitled to answer, Chair.

Mr ELLIOTT: —and I am entitled to answer it.

The CHAIR: Okay, proceed. I would like an answer to the question, not a statement.

Mr ELLIOTT: I am answering your question.

Professor GLOVER: Continue reading the statement, Andrew.

Mr ELLIOTT: MAAS and our security company have no record of a noise complaint being received on the night or of any disorderly behaviour or the police being called on the night. The museum advises that there was no illegal activity at this post-event function.

The CHAIR: Do you maintain that you did not receive a report from the [OMITTED], [OMITTED], and/or the [OMITTED]? That was my question and you have not answered it.

Mr ELLIOTT: I did receive reports because, as part of the investigation, I asked for reports of what was occurring or alleged to be occurring on the night.

The CHAIR: Why was it so hard for you to answer that question straight to me?

Mr ELLIOTT: That is actually a different question to what you asked me originally.

The CHAIR: That is exactly the same question I read to you.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: In any event, you received the reports.

Mr ELLIOTT: I receive reports.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Your evidence is that they disclosed no illegal activity?

Mr ELLIOTT: That is correct.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: There was no reference to any drug taking or the sighting of drugs?

Mr ELLIOTT: Certainly not.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Were there any reports about a large amount of alcohol being taken up into the offices following the closing of the official event?

Mr ELLIOTT: The reports that I saw did not state that, no.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Would it be true that you are aware of the fact that a very large amount of alcohol was taken upstairs into the offices, following the conclusion of the official event? Professor Glover, if you would also like to answer the same question after Mr Elliott.

Professor GLOVER: I am not aware. You are defining a significant amount. I have no idea what you are talking about.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: A very large number of bottles of alcohol.

Professor GLOVER: I have not heard that reported to me in the way you have just described it. I am sorry, I have never heard it reported that way before. I am sorry, but that is the reality.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Well what have you heard?

Professor GLOVER: In relation to what? The amount of alcohol?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: In relation to the "kick-on" party, if I could so describe it, that happened in the offices once the official event closed.

Professor GLOVER: Well—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Where security had to be brought in—

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Let him answer the question.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: —to allow staff to go up after the usual hours to attend their offices and consume the alcohol.

Professor GLOVER: Mr Shoebridge, as president of the trust I am disappointed that staff from the museum stayed so late after that event. I was at the event—my wife and I attended the event. We attended from approximately six o'clock in the evening to approximately 10 o'clock at night. We both paid because it was a fundraiser, and we contributed to that.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Professor Glover, nobody has—

Professor GLOVER: I am sorry, I am putting it in context—

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Let him finish.

Professor GLOVER: I would like to answer the question, please.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Nobody has called into question your conduct on the night.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Well you are getting pretty close.

Professor GLOVER: I will answer this question.

The CHAIR: Order!

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: By all means.

Professor GLOVER: I said I was deeply disappointed as president of the trust when I became aware that staff had stayed excessively, in my view, after the event in the museum. I spoke to the director in relation to that as soon as it was brought to my attention. I received from her an assurance that HR policies would be looked at and, if necessary, disciplinary action taken—I was assured of that. I am disappointed that that occurred. What I was trying to say though, in explaining my time at the ball, was to indicate that the event was very well run. I sat with the Minister, I sat with the foreign Minister, I engaged with a number of people who we were keen to develop a relationship with in relation to further fundraising, sponsorship and opportunities to attract resources for our fashion collection at the museum. It served those purposes for me and certainly for other members of the trust who were there. I am deeply concerned and disappointed that people stayed late.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Did you have reports about an excessive amount of alcohol, paid for by the taxpayers of New South Wales, being consumed at the, I will call it, "after event" event?

Professor GLOVER: As far as I am aware, Deputy Chair, the alcohol that was consumed, and I cannot speak to the quantity—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I accept you were not there.

Professor GLOVER: I do not have any view as to the quantity, I am sorry but I cannot speak to that. As far as I am aware that was not paid for by the taxpayers of New South Wales. I asked the same question and I was assured it was not.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What about \$25,000 being paid for table centrepieces at a loss-making fundraiser? How do you feel about that? Have you asked for a justification of that?

Professor GLOVER: Earlier in our responses about the ball we discussed the objectives of that evening, and there were many objectives. You called it a "loss-making" because, yes, \$70,000 was raised for the Australian Fashion Fund to enable us in future to continue to build the fashion collection. The fashion collection is a remarkable part of our museum and that is the reason this was a signature event: To commence a series of relationship-building exercises with key individuals, corporations and potential sponsors. This is a long-term strategy to build and support the Australian Fashion Fund and the fashion collection. You characterise it in relation to one aspect, I simply want to put on record, as we said earlier, that there were a number of objectives for that evening. I was there for four hours and I think it delivered on those objectives.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Do you defend spending \$25,000 of taxpayers' money on table centrepieces when you know the museum is desperately in need of funds?

Professor GLOVER: We could go through line by line on the budget—and I am sure you will.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I am taking you to this line.

Professor GLOVER: I am not going to speak to individual items in the budget. I do not have the budget in front of me and I am not going to speak to it. As far as I am concerned this was a successful event and I am disappointed that staff remained late afterwards. I have said that and that is on the record.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: You were both at the event. What was the table centrepiece—

Professor GLOVER: I cannot recall what the centrepiece was.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: —that cost \$25,000 for the event?

Professor GLOVER: I have no recollection of what the table centrepiece was, I am sorry. We can take it on notice to get you photographs or whatever is available to assure you of what it was. I am sorry, I do not recall what it was.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Mr Elliott, what was the budget for the event? Was it budgeted to lose \$137,000 as a fundraiser or was there no budget, no control and it just ran on its own steam?

Mr ELLIOTT: I think there is a fundamental piece that you are missing there.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Yes, the budget.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Do not be smart. Let him answer the question.

The CHAIR: Order!

Professor GLOVER: Take your time, Andrew.

Mr ELLIOTT: The museum invests in a series and range of exhibitions, programs, events—that is what a museum does. Our KPI is obviously a net cost of services, we meet that. Our other KPI or primary KPI is visitation. We invest in a number of exhibitions, programs, events to deliver a service to the public to satisfy our KPI, which is visitation and contribution to our community and to our State.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: In a competently run organisation every event, particularly if you are talking about an event that is going to cost in the order of \$388,000, has a budget. What was the budget for this event and what was it budgeted to do? Was it budgeted to lose \$137,000? Was it budgeted to gain a certain amount of money? What was the budget and what was the final position predicted?

Mr ELLIOTT: The event occurred on 1 February, which is some time ago, and I have dealt with a lot of numbers. To accurately answer that question I would have to take it on notice.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I am happy for the detail on notice but you must know whether or not it was budgeted to run at a loss or a profit. It was a fundraiser. Was it budgeted to run at a loss or a profit?

Professor GLOVER: Can I make a comment?

The CHAIR: Please.

Professor GLOVER: Just to reiterate, this had a number of objectives, of which fundraising was one of those objectives but it was also the beginning. Fundraising for any institution—and I can comment in detail about my own—is a long burn; you build relationships over time. The Centre for Fashion that we have at the museum set its goals on the beginning of a process of fundraising. The ball was a critical part of that, to showcase the collection, to showcase the Centre for Fashion, to showcase the museum and to bring together the fashion industry of Sydney. That was the beginning of a process. Now, the people with delegated responsibility for budgets and for expenditure were responsible for the expenditure on that evening and they acted within their delegation.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Mr Elliott, as the chief financial officer I am asking you a very simple question—not the precise figure—whether the budget was to run this as a profit or as a \$137,000 loss or was it something else? Was it a profit or loss?

Mr ELLIOTT: As I answered earlier, the budget was allocated within the development budget. The development budget is an investment in these events. It was budgeted to raise in excess of \$70,000 to seed fund the Australian Fashion Fund, and that is indeed certainly what it did do.

Professor GLOVER: Can I add though this very important point? We do not set out to run events at a loss, which is the point you are making I think, Mr Shoebidge. However, this was the first event of its kind that the museum had run. It was a very important event for us and, as I said, it had multiple objectives. We raised \$70,000 for the Australian Fashion Fund. The overall development and event budget for the museum, of which that money would have to come from—that overall budget was not exceeded during the course of the year. So you manage across a number of events—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But—

Professor GLOVER: Can I just finish the sentence?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Do.

Professor GLOVER: We manage many events in the course of a financial year. Some events are successful for us, which is great, attracting more visitation and bringing more resources or sponsorship than we had anticipated. Of course, some events are not as successful as we had anticipated and this was a case in point.

The CHAIR: Thank you, Professor Glover. That is the first time I have heard someone describe that so-called "fundraiser" as not a success from a financial point of view, because that is certainly not the Minister's evidence.

Professor GLOVER: Well, I am trying—

The CHAIR: When questioned, the Minister told me it was a great fundraiser and that it raised \$70,000. What we were not told—

Professor GLOVER: That is a truthful statement. It was a great fundraiser and it did raise \$70,000.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Is it a question or is it—

The CHAIR: Hang on, I am getting to the question.

Professor GLOVER: I do not want to play semantics with this.

The CHAIR: This has been a long drawn-out process like pulling teeth on what reality of what actually happened there.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: I am sure it has but you have two witnesses who have given you the courtesy of coming here. They should be entitled to answer the question without being harangued by anyone.

The CHAIR: Order!

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Professor Glover, you say the fundraising is the start of a long burn, to use your words.

Professor GLOVER: Yes.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Is MAAS planning another fashion ball?

Professor GLOVER: We have no current intention to run another fashion ball, Mr Secord. What I can say, however, is we will look to run more events to showcase our fashion collection and to continue to engage with sponsors, organisations and individuals who might like to give and contribute to the fashion collection. So of course we will run other events.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Professor Glover, you said four times that you were deeply disappointed that staff stayed so late.

Professor GLOVER: Yes.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: You said it four times. On what basis have you reached the conclusion that you were deeply disappointed?

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: He probably felt it in his waters.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Read the newspaper.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: No, he said that the investigations and reports showed that nothing untoward occurred.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I think "nothing illegal" was the evidence.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Sorry, nothing illegal. On what do you base your conclusion that you were deeply disappointed, which you said four times?

Professor GLOVER: Of course. I say it the fifth time: I was deeply disappointed. I feel it is a personal view. I feel people staying late into the evening, into the early hours of the morning, is inappropriate. I felt it was not necessary after a great and successful event, so I am disappointed that that occurred because it has now been widely reported in the media and unfortunately detracted from what was otherwise a very successful event. I know members on your panel of inquiry have made comments in Parliament in relation to this event and I think it has detracted from what was otherwise very successful, so I am disappointed. Does that answer your question?

The Hon. WALT SECORD: It did not, really, but I moved on.

Professor GLOVER: In what sense did it not answer it? I personally felt when I was informed about it—

The Hon. WALT SECORD: How could you say that a loss—the Minister said in Parliament that it was a success.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I think Professor Glover just said it.

Professor GLOVER: It is a success. I have just said it was a great success.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: If you run many more successful fundraisers like that, you will have to shut the place down.

Professor GLOVER: I have tried to explain on a number of occasions it had multiple objectives.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: A \$137,000 black hole on a fundraiser—

Professor GLOVER: We can spend a lot of time on the ball in the next half an hour, which is not the most constructive thing to do.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Professor Glover, I will put a simple question to you: A \$137 financial loss—

Professor GLOVER: A \$137,000 financial loss, I think you meant to say.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: A \$137,000 financial loss and a reputational disaster because of the conduct of your staff: how could you describe that as a success?

Professor GLOVER: I could repeat again the reasons I have already outlined about the objectives of that event. I am not sure I can express it in any different way. We went into that event with particular objectives. Fundraising was one of them and it was an important one. I acknowledge that.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It's the vibe.

Professor GLOVER: The Minister was quite right to say it was successful in raising \$70,000.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It's the vibe.

Professor GLOVER: I beg your pardon?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It's the vibe, is what you are telling us.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Don't be gratuitous, David.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It was a general, positive feel that came about as a result of the event.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: You have the witness here. He is answering the question. You do not have to be offensive.

The CHAIR: Are you taking a point of order?

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Yes, absolutely I am taking a point of order.

The CHAIR: Then say so.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: The witnesses are here. They are answering questions. They are entitled to answer them without the gratuitous interruptions of any of the members here. That is my point of order.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Mr Elliott, early in the proceedings you read your opening statement and in response to questions from us you read from prepared answers. Who assisted you in preparation of the answers that are appearing before the Committee today?

Mr ELLIOTT: My staff, and there is nothing wrong with that whatsoever. This is a new experience for me. I wanted to be prepared and I wanted to ensure that I would accurately answer the questions that I was asked.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: For the record, Mr Elliott, there is no criticism that can be made of you for doing detailed preparation.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: No, I am not criticising.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I wish more witnesses did it. For the record, I do not have any criticism for having detailed, prepared responses.

Professor GLOVER: Thank you.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Could I go on to a different topic?

Professor GLOVER: That would be a great idea.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: I had one question, which I wanted to get to before Mr Shoebridge interceded. Was the Minister's office involved in the preparation of any of your answers?

Mr ELLIOTT: Not to my knowledge.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Not to your knowledge. Will you take that on notice?

Mr ELLIOTT: Will I take that on notice?

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Yes. Was the Minister's office involved—

Professor GLOVER: Neither of us—I have the same set of notes. They are just notes of issues. This is some time ago on some issues. No-one from the Minister's office that I am aware of had anything to do with this process.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Thank you.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Professor, I recall on the previous occasion you came we discussed your correspondence, I think, of 1 September 2016 to the Deputy Premier. Do remember that?

Professor GLOVER: I do remember that you and I spoke about it, Deputy Chair, yes.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I have a copy of it here, if you would like.

Professor GLOVER: That would be handy—it has been some time since I have seen it. I am happy to have a look at it again.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I give you a copy. There is another document as well.

Professor GLOVER: Thank you.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It reads in part:

Planning for the new Museum is ... a key priority and this is a critical time to ensure that the Trustees' expectations of the project are clear, specifically that:

- the 'whole site' option is required, unencumbered by other commercial developments, in order to realise an architecturally iconic, world-class flagship Museum.

Do you see that?

Professor GLOVER: I do see that, yes.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What has changed that now says it is okay to have a 50-storey or 60-storey tower on the same site and to junk the idea of a whole site option?

Professor GLOVER: Well, the Government has been through a detailed business case process and considered options. The option that they have approved for Parramatta includes a development option on the site. Government has made that decision.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But this was your red line as the trustees. You said, "Unless these conditions are met it does not have the support of the trustees". The first condition, the most fundamental condition, has been flouted by the Government. What is the position of the board now?

Professor GLOVER: I am not sure I am reading what you have just said into my statement. You will need to clarify in what way this could be characterised the way you just described it.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: You say:

... expectations of the project are clear, specifically that:

- the 'whole site' option is required ...

The Government has ignored it and come back with a business case that plonks a ruddy great tower right in the middle of the site. What is the trust's response?

Professor GLOVER: The trust has continued to work with the project steering committee over a period of time. In this case, over two years have elapsed. A great deal of discussion has gone on at project steering committees. The Government has made its view very clear about the project and has made a decision. They have selected a particular option. The trust is now supportive of the option that is being pursued for Parramatta.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: When did the trust sit down and recant from that fundamental condition that the whole site option is required? When did the board sit down and recant from that position?

Professor GLOVER: I do not know a specific moment at which we recanted from anything. We were part of a process of working very closely with Create NSW and the New South Wales Government as options were developed for Parramatta and as options were under consideration for the site. During that process the board was aware of developments, briefed as appropriate and the board supports the outcome of the decision made.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Did you lodge objections when you saw the modelling in the business case and the second document that I have provided you, in which the first diagram shows a tiny footprint of a museum at the bottom, absolutely overwhelmed and dominated by a residential-slash-commercial tower? When you saw that, did you say, "That's not our vision. We can't possibly have that. That's such a breach of trust"? Did you say that?

Professor GLOVER: Of course, that option is totally unacceptable.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Can you show us the correspondence where you, on behalf of the board, said to the Government that that option in the business case is totally unacceptable?

Professor GLOVER: Those discussions would have gone on within the project steering committee as the trust's view was conveyed in considering options. But that option certainly is not an acceptable option. If I understand what you are pointing out to me, you have a very large residential tower on top of a base which is the museum.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I do not have that; that is the Government in the business case.

Professor GLOVER: But that is the one you are pointing out to me.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: That it correct.

Professor GLOVER: You have extracted it from documentation. I cannot take the context of it, but nevertheless that would be an unacceptable option as far as the trust was concerned.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Can you provide the Committee with the date or the correspondence or the email or any evidence where the trust has said to the Government in response to the Government's now signed-off business case that that option is totally unacceptable?

Professor GLOVER: No, I cannot.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Why not?

Professor GLOVER: Because as far as I am aware, there is no correspondence of that kind.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Professor Glover, you just outlined before that any communication to that effect would have taken place in the project steering committee. Is that correct?

Professor GLOVER: The museum was represented on the project steering committee up to the decision by government, and it has been involved in the project steering committee and the project control group since. Discussion of options occurs in those groups and are reported back to the board, as appropriate. An option like that—I cannot even recall that option ever being put before us at a project steering committee meeting. It might have occurred at the project committee meetings before I was a member, when we had other trustees there. It seems like an option that would not have got much support from anyone. I cannot give you an answer to that in any detail.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Professor Glover, will the Powerhouse Museum at Parramatta be smaller or larger than what exists at Ultimo?

Professor GLOVER: I think the Government has made it clear—I think the Premier has made it clear—that bigger and better is the objective for Parramatta, as I understand it. I do not have the square meterage in front of me. I have been assured it is bigger.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: No, no. You said the Premier said that.

Professor GLOVER: That is exactly right.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: What is your title? President?

Professor GLOVER: You know what my title is, Mr Secord. If you do not, then I am surprised that I am here.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Oh, okay. I would show you certain courtesies.

Professor GLOVER: I would too. I have been here four times, thank you very much.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Yes. Show him the courtesy, Walt, instead of performing.

The CHAIR: Order!

Professor GLOVER: I will not answer a question like what is my title. You know my title.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: President of the board.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: President of the board. So you do not know—yes or no—if it is going to be—you said the Premier said it is going to be—larger.

Professor GLOVER: Yes. My understanding is it is larger, yes.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Is that your view?

Professor GLOVER: Yes, that is my understanding.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: As President of the board of trustees—

Professor GLOVER: Yes, that is my understanding.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: —that the Powerhouse Museum at Parramatta will be larger at Parramatta than the Ultimo site.

Professor GLOVER: That is my understanding.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Thank you.

Professor GLOVER: Correct.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: What is going to happen to the *Catalina* and other large objects that are at the Powerhouse?

Professor GLOVER: I can answer that question. Is the question, "Are there plans for them within the large voluminous spaces?" Is that what you are asking?

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Will they be displayed in the museum?

Professor GLOVER: I am sorry: You did not let me finish.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: No, no. I thought you were asking me for—

Professor GLOVER: You spoke over the top of me. I was not sure whether you wanted me to finish my sentence.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: I thought you were seeking a clarification—

Professor GLOVER: I am sorry: You are speaking over the top of me again.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: —Barney.

Professor GLOVER: Let me finish.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Oh, come on.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Treat the witness with respect.

Professor GLOVER: I am not a member of Parliament. I do not have to put up with that.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Our previous experience with Professor Glover is that he showed disrespect to a Committee.

Professor GLOVER: I have not shown disrespect.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: But you are, Walt. You are.

The CHAIR: Order!

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: That is extraordinary.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Point of order—

Professor GLOVER: I have not shown disrespect to this Committee at all.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Point of order—

The CHAIR: Order!

Professor GLOVER: I would like you to retract. I have not done that.

The CHAIR: Order! I am calling order, Mr Glover.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: The Hon. Trevor Khan keeps interrupting when the member is asking a question.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: No—when they are rude.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: My question was very simple.

The CHAIR: Then call a point of order and we will begin again. All right? Let us not have a free-for-all here.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: I thought he was seeking a clarification. I wanted to know: Will the *Catalina* be at the Parramatta site or do you have other locations—

Professor GLOVER: I am trying to clarify the question. That is all, Mr Secord. That is: Is it—

The Hon. WALT SECORD: I asked what will happen to the *Catalina* and other large objects and you responded. I thought you were asking me for a clarification, so I thought, "Would it be Parramatta, or are you looking at other sites."

Professor GLOVER: I have not been disrespectful to this Committee. I want that on the record. I am sorry you think I have been, Walt. I have not. I greatly respect this process. I am not a member of Parliament. I do not expect to be treated as if I am one. Of course, the plans are for the location of those great items—the 38 large items of the collection—to be located in our new museum. The logistical planning for the move is underway at the moment. Of course, it is a very complex process and we have to be very, very careful about it. I am being pressed with the briefings I have had about, I think, very, very important issues surrounding the move of the collection. I am also very, very impressed about the opportunity the Government is going to provide in this project for us to digitise more and more of the collection so that it is available more broadly.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Professor Glover—

Professor GLOVER: I think, to answer your question, the plans are underway for the logistics of the move, Walt.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Professor Glover, the international design competition—

Professor GLOVER: Yes.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Are you aware there have been criticisms from Australian architects—

Professor GLOVER: Yes.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: —who are concerned that they may be excluded from the process?

Professor GLOVER: I have read these criticisms in the newspaper, yes.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: What are you doing to respond to their concerns?

Professor GLOVER: The trust met with Malcolm Reading, who has been appointed by Create NSW, to conduct or oversee the design competition and certainly to get assurances from him that this stage one—as you probably know this is a two-stage process—of the process is one where there will be an opportunity for architectural groups in Australia and around the world to express interest and to demonstrate their capacity and capability to build a museum of this scale, size and complexity. I am sure that we will be encouraging not just Australian architectural firms to participate but joint activity between international architectural firms and Australian architectural firms. I was assured by Mr Reading that that will be the case and we look forward to seeing that emerge.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Professor, when you joined the board—I think it was in January 2015, is that right?

Professor GLOVER: Yes, I think that is right.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Were you briefed about the then business case?

Professor GLOVER: No, not at that point.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: When were you briefed on the October 2014 business case?

Professor GLOVER: Do you mean the October 2014 business case that the museum had been working on itself?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: The October 2014 final business case for the renewal of the Powerhouse Museum done by one of a group of three global consultants—Ernst and Young, I think.

Professor GLOVER: The business case that the museum had been working on for the redevelopment of the Ultimo site for the museum, I think that at one of the first or second meetings there was a presentation from the then director in relation to that.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Were you aware—

Professor GLOVER: But I cannot be accurate. I do not have accurate notes on that.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Were you aware that that business case, which was signed off by the museum and provided to government, spoke about the site's significance and why it was important that the Powerhouse remain where it is?

Professor GLOVER: I have not read the detail of that business case, but that does not surprise me that that would be in the document.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: All right. Indeed, it said, "MAAS maintains a strong and important historical connection to the Ultimo and Pyrmont precincts as well as the city of Sydney. The museum first opened in 1893 in a purpose-built technological museum in Harris Street, moving to its current location in 1988. The museum's relationship with university, digital and technology partners in Ultimo has strengthened over this time and is central to the museum's core functions as a museum of technology and learning." That is all right, is it not? That is all correct?

Professor GLOVER: I am assuming that, as you are reading it, yes. I am assuming that is correct.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I am not asking whether or not that is an accurate reading of the business case, which I can assure you it is. I am asking you whether or not you agree with that statement about the site's significance.

Professor GLOVER: That is the statement made by the consultants in that report and I think it accurately reflects their view, and I think it makes very strong arguments, yes.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Then, "The museum provides important connectivity for the cultural ribbon running through Darling Harbour and The Goods Line while consolidating cultural heritage within the Ultimo precinct." That is true, is it not?

Professor GLOVER: I think it is a valid argument, that is correct.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: If that was the site's significance in October 2014, how did we get to the point at which the board now supports tearing up the museum from Ultimo, stripping it out of the cultural ribbon, ripping away the connections that it has historically to the site, and moving it to Parramatta? What happened?

Professor GLOVER: I think one of the important points to note, in responding to your question, is that after the preliminary business case was completed, we had a change of Minister and a change of Premier. One of the important points made by the new Minister in taking up the role, and by the Premier, was that there be a reconsideration of the future of Ultimo. As you know from our previous exchanges at this Committee, the trustees have advocated for one museum across four sites: In other words, to retain a presence for the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences at Ultimo; to retain, in fact, a cultural precinct there. Minister Harwin and the Premier have both indicated that that is their intent. At the moment, it captures the concept of a design and fashion museum and a Broadway-style theatre and other cultural assets there, and preserving the important buildings on the site, and ensuring that there is still that cultural connection. So there are arguments, here, that would indicate that not all of what you are saying perhaps is currently reflected in the planning that is underway.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I want to be clear. In 2014 a detailed business case, which would have been approved and signed off by the museum said that the presence at Ultimo was central to the museum's core functions. I put this to you: that the museum's core functions will be seriously damaged by the move, and that as a president of the board you have not defended the museum's core functions by supporting the move.

Professor GLOVER: I do not accept that assertion, Deputy Chair. I would reject that suggestion.

The CHAIR: Professor Glover, do you have a copy of that in front of you?

Professor GLOVER: Yes, I do.

The CHAIR: Someone has put on that drawing, I believe, that this is the Parramatta site.

Professor GLOVER: Yes, that is correct.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: The first one is from the business case and the second one was from the glossies that the Government was selling.

The CHAIR: The one on the bottom was from a glossy rendering of a representation. I refer to the top representation, from the business case. Is it true that only the base of that large tower is actually going to be the museum?

Professor GLOVER: I can assure you, Chair, that as far as I am concerned, that design would never occur. It has never been suggested to me, for the last year or more, that any option like that would ever be suggested for this. Certainly every plan for the site of Parramatta that I have seen is an artistic rendering not dissimilar to what you see underneath—in other words, a standalone museum building, not with a tower above it. So I think I can reassure you that—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I am instructed that that is from the business case.

Professor GLOVER: I am sure there are many options in the business case. That is what a business case is about—options. Eventually—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: The job of the trustees, who have the institution on trust, is when they see something like that, to say, "No, way—never. Not on our watch! How dare you put this in the business case."

Professor GLOVER: Why do you suggest that those discussions did not happen in a project steering committee meeting?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Because I have asked you for any evidence that those kinds of communications happened from the board, and you have said that there is not any.

Professor GLOVER: I did not write a letter about it, if that is what you would like to see, or send an email, or even make a twitter about it. I am sorry; I cannot provide you with that information.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But you also said that you were not aware of this, that you had not seen it and it has not been raised.

Professor GLOVER: Aware of what?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Of that option in the business case.

Professor GLOVER: Do you know how many pages there are to have been through? Of course, if that image passed my view at some point I would have dismissed it as readily as you did.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I did not dismiss it. I was horrified by it.

Professor GLOVER: Good. We have both dismissed it, then, Deputy Chair.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I did not dismiss it; I was horrified by it. I brought it up here to see what your position is.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: We can share outrage here.

Professor GLOVER: What is the outrage about?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Chair, I have one question.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: About the Government planning to do that to the Powerhouse.

Professor GLOVER: They are not planning to do that to the Powerhouse—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It is just in their business case.

Professor GLOVER: This just seems ludicrous.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: It does.

Professor GLOVER: No such image has ever appeared in a detailed plan. We are currently doing the work to prepare for a design competition. Of course, the functional brief includes a standalone—I am going to quote a number of 30,000 square metres, or something—museum in Parramatta, which is a beautiful, iconic world-class museum.

The CHAIR: That is nice to hear, Professor Glover—

Professor GLOVER: Just to reassure you, Chair.

The CHAIR: —but are you aware that it is the Minister's evidence that there will be residential towers on that site?

Professor GLOVER: But not on top of the museum, Chair—on the site.

The CHAIR: How would you fit them if you did not do them that way?

Professor GLOVER: I know that it is not my role as an architect to tell you how to fit a tower on a site, but there are ways to do it and have a museum.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Can I ask just one question—

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Oh!

The CHAIR: I have not heard too many questions from you, so I would not be sniggering too much.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: No, no.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: You can take up the time if you want.

Professor GLOVER: I am happy to take another question but I have an appointment that I have to go to at four o'clock.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I think we all have to.

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: One quick question, if I may, with regards to the design and the heritage listed Willow Grove and St Georges Terrace. Will they be preserved?

Professor GLOVER: As I understand it, the Minister and the Government have indicated that no decision has been made by Government about the future of Willow Grove whatsoever. So they have not said that it should or should not be included, but it must be included in the design competition. There must be a response to it, as I understand it, in stage one.

The CHAIR: Professor Glover, are you at all aware of the Government signing any binding contracts in relation to this ongoing development at Parramatta?

Professor GLOVER: No, I do not. I know the Government has an obligation to purchase the site.

The CHAIR: Yes. We know that much.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: That is the arrangement with the council, but you are not aware of anything in addition to the arrangement with Parramatta Council?

Professor GLOVER: Only the design competition.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Of course.

Professor GLOVER: There are contractual arrangements that have been signed there.

The CHAIR: That has not been selected. Thank you very much for coming today. Thank you for your lively correspondence and lively interaction with the Committee. We thank you very much for your participation. I think, Mr Elliott, you have taken some questions on notice. Do you want to ask one last question? I am trying to wrap up.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: I just want to ask one last question.

The CHAIR: As one last question.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Have any of the completion dates or plan dates been revised since the last time the Committee has met?

Professor GLOVER: Planning dates for what?

The Hon. WALT SECORD: For the completion and the opening of the museum?

Professor GLOVER: I think a lot of work is going on about that as more detailed work goes into design and so on. I think 2023-24 is now the envelope for completion.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Perhaps you could give us the current timetable on notice.

Professor GLOVER: I could only refer it to Create NSW. You should seek it from Create NSW.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: I guess, as of 15 November 2018, what is the estimated completion date?

Professor GLOVER: I cannot answer that accurately. I think you should ask the question of Create NSW.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Mr Elliott, the secretariat will contact you with details of the questions on notice.

Mr ELLIOTT: Thank you.

The CHAIR: Thank you very much.

(The witnesses withdrew)

(The Committee adjourned at 4.06 p.m.)