

Mr Marcus Jennejohn
Key Sites Assessment
Department of Planning Industry & Environment
4 Parramatta Square,
12 Darcy Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

15 December 2020

Dear Mr Jennejohn,

RE: Response to Submissions and Amended Proposal Report - Powerhouse Parramatta State Significant Development SSD-10416

We refer to our letter dated 12 November 2020 (**Appendix A**), detailing Council's advice and feedback in respect of technical matters following consideration of the Response to Submissions and Amended Proposal Report. The letter excluded a response on Council's position in relation to heritage matters noting that this would be provided in a separate response following Council's next Ordinary Meeting held on 30 November 2020, at which a Rescission Motion was considered. This letter now provides that response.

We thank you once again for the opportunity to provide additional comment on the Response to Submissions and Amended Proposal Report for the Powerhouse Parramatta notified on 13 October 2020.

Council reiterates its support for the Powerhouse Parramatta in its proposed current location and the significant investment in a new cultural institution in Sydney's Central River City. Council congratulates and acknowledges the hard work and dedication of the NSW Government, particularly Minister Harwin, in its pursuit of this significant project and encourages its prompt realisation in support of jobs and cultural destinations for the people of Western Sydney.

Recognising Parramatta's enduring connections with heritage and its importance to the City's people, and noting Council's prior resolutions of unanimous support for the retention of both Willow Grove and St Georges Terraces, Council seeks further detail on the proposed method of relocation, future location and impact of the heritage significance of Willow Grove. Following consideration of further advice and detail, should it then be demonstrated that there is no alternative than the complete demolition and loss of Willow Grove or its relocation, in such circumstances, Council gives its unconditional support to its relocation.

As noted in its previous letter (**Appendix A**), Council also seeks to continue to work collaboratively with the NSW Government in resolution of a number of outstanding and unresolved design matters. These include flooding impacts, the undercroft, the podium landscape, the public domain, Civic Link and other

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matters including rights of way and interface with Council land. Additional matters relating to heritage are detailed in **Appendix B** to this letter.

Council considered a Rescission Motion at its Ordinary Meeting on 30 November 2020. The Rescission Motion was lost with the resolution of the Council held on 9 November 2020 upheld where it resolved the following:

- (a) **That** Council reaffirm its support for the Powerhouse Parramatta noting the significant investment in new cultural infrastructure, jobs and the economy of Sydney's Central River City.
- (b) **That** Council note the Proponent's Response seeks to retain St George's Terraces and relocate Willow Grove, as an alternative to its demolition.
- (c) **That** Council note the Response does not include sufficient information on the method of relocation, future location or the impact of the heritage significance of Willow Grove to allow for an assessment of the proposed relocation.
- (d) **That**, if the Proponent's final submission proposes to relocate Willow Grove, then Council conditionally support the relocation of Willow Grove, rather than its demolition, subject to an assessment of the method of relocation, future location and the impact of the heritage significance of Willow Grove.
- (e) **That** Council approve the letter (at **Attachment 1**) to the DPIE replying to the Response and note the letter includes:
 - a. the conditional support set out above in paragraph (d);
 - b. several design concerns including flooding impacts, the undercroft, the podium landscape and the public domain;
 - c. other matters including Civic Link and the interface with Council land.
- (f) **That** Council acknowledges City of Parramatta long connection with heritage and our desire to retain those connections where possible.
- (g) **That** Council acknowledges and gives unconditional support in that the only current suitable location for the Powerhouse Museum is its current proposed location and no other location within the City of Parramatta has immediate connections for transport, schools, workers, businesses and the community. Any other proposed location would ensure that the Museum would be a white elephant and not reach its full potential.
- (h) **That** if we are faced with no other choice than the complete demolition and loss of Willow Grove or relocation as proposed by the NSW State Government, Council gives unconditional support to the said relocation.
- (i) **That** while Council acknowledges a number of submissions in response to the EIS against the proposed Powerhouse Museum, it should be acknowledged that the vast majority of these submissions were from outside of Parramatta LGA and while important should carry minimal weight than the submissions received from within the Parramatta LGA. It must be acknowledged that the current population of the Parramatta LGA is approximately 234,000 and that the vast majority did not provide submissions.

- (j) **That** Council congratulate and acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the NSW State Government and in particular Minister Harwin for seeing this project through to completion.
- (k) **That** Council encourages the NSW State Government works to resolve the outstanding issues raised by Council and proceed with the project as a matter of urgency to not only bring jobs to Parramatta but to deliver this world class institution to the people of Western Sydney.
- (l) **Further that**, without further delay, the proposed letter attached to the motion be amended to reflect Council's position and that this letter be signed by the Lord Mayor and CEO and the Lord Mayor also write to the parties mentioned above advising them of Council's position.

The advice contained in this letter is provided to reflect the above resolution. Council reiterates its support of this significant and world-class project and we thank you for the opportunity to provide further comment. We welcome continued collaboration with the NSW Government on what will be an outstanding legacy and cultural facility for the Central River City.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 9806 5767.

Kind Regards,



Cr Bob Dwyer

Lord Mayor
City of Parramatta



Mr Bryan Hynes

Acting Chief Executive Officer
City of Parramatta