Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal and the Application No is SSD-32927319

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I am happy for my name to be publicly attached to this submission.

I object to what is proposed as for the ‘Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal’.

I write regarding two matters: the quality and importance of the Lionel Glendenning design for the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo and the presence and rationale for the Powerhouse Museum as a properly functioning museum of applied arts and technology on that site.

The award-winning addition to the old powerhouse in 1988 created is an important addition to the Harris Street streetscape purpose built to house the museum’s large-scale exhibits that will not be otherwise meaningfully housed. The quality of the design is acknowledged in the matching roof profile of Harry Seidler’s swimming pool to create a gateway to the city from Ultimo.

These are not old buildings past their use-by date. What exists is substantial. To demolish lacks logic other than as a financial offset. It also lacks public value and responsibility. Demolition of useful and high quality buildings will, in times of great public pressure on government finances, simply be a waste of a useful building and its material components.

Regarding the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo I make these points: The Museum is an outcome of the 1879 International Exhibition as proposed by the trustees of the Australian Museum. It was conceived as a technological and industrial museum and its location in Harris Street Ultimo was purposefully located in conjunction with the (now) TAFE NSW Sydney Institute from which developed the University of NSW. It creates a zone of technological and industrial knowledge and education centred on Harris Street with the prospect of mutual benefit. The conjunction of the Sydney Institute, UTS and the Powerhouse Museum retains a logic and usefulness as a concentration of technology and applied arts and design institutions. It has been under-utilised in recent decades but with better management, communication and as a research resource it will have far greater meaning and purpose for the general population than as a place for occasional entertainments through, for example fashion.

The museum's purpose is important, as is the potential cultural mass of such meaningful material thoughtfully communicated in the CBD instead of its scattering to provide private development opportunities without significant public benefit.