

Lionel Glendenning: Powerhouse Museum

From: Jennifer Sanders (jenniferl.sanders@yahoo.com)

To: annette.pitman@create.nsw.gov.au

Cc: peter.collins@maas.museum; lisa.havilah@maas.museum

Date: Tuesday, 11 May 2021 at 03:08 pm AEST

Recent news in the media suggests the Government is looking at a capital works proposal for the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo.

References have been made to my participation in the Museum Renewal and Masterplanning work, yet I have had no involvement since December last year and, have consequently no idea as to what is proposed.

This is most irregular and quite contrary to a proper exercise of Moral Rights and Copyright - and particularly my open and generous engagement in good faith at Minister Harwin's invitation at the lunch he hosted at the National Art School.

Furthermore, I have not been involved nor consulted about the Conservation Management Plan being prepared at this stage by Curio. As I understand it, Alan Croker is still not formally engaged to 'complete' the CMP in consultation with me. This secret process is inconsistent with the proven methodology for a Conservation Management Plan - a CMP for the Powerhouse Museum as an industrial heritage site and a major cultural institution.

The process that is apparently proceeding apace can only result in a flawed outcome - a Carriageworks Ultimo - a denial of the Museum's history and its professional establishment as a major cultural institution.

Significant changes are being made to the Museum without any reference to me, yet my involvement and 'approval' is inferred. This is unacceptable and completely at odds with the stated intent of the Masterplanning Dialogues and the yet to be completed CMP.

It is passing strange that apparently funding submissions have been made based on design and planning that has no CMP, no real involvement by me or many others - beyond the minute-less, ephemeral discussion of the pre-Christmas 'Dialogues' - two way conversations?

A flawed process like this will not deliver the agreement and support that the Powerhouse Museum needs to reconnect with its audience and stakeholders and, my involvement or implied participation cannot be cited as a defence for the ongoing erosion of the design integrity of the Powerhouse.

Lionel



Powerhouse Museum

From: Jennifer Sanders (jenniferl.sanders@yahoo.com)

To: annette.pitman@create.nsw.gov.au

Date: Tuesday, 19 April 2022 at 10:27 pm AEST

Annette

It was disappointing to say the least that information was once again unavailable at the Master Planning 'Dialogue' meeting, 12 April 2022. Rather than providing the following to those attending, we were given brief verbal summaries and Powerpoint slideshows.

Could you provide:

- A set of the Powerpoint presentation (Thomas Kobulcar)
- A copy of the SEARS submission and the Secretary's requirements - SEARS
- The report and data for the visitor survey and consultation undertaken by Aurecon on 19/20 March 2022 at the Powerhouse Museum and online (Lisa Havilah)
- The Design Brief - Blocking and Stacking (John Wardle) - Concept Diagram/DA for the SEARS: Powerhouse Museum Ultimo Submission.
- The status of the Design 5 Consultancy and Curio's 'role'.
- The status and current draft of the Conservation Management Plan for the PHM Ultimo. Note: Design 5 is, as stated at our meeting, critical to the quality, integrity, excellence and independence of the CMP process being undertaken by this nationally recognised, gold standard practice.

I note that you and the Minister have cited that I and others have significant roles and input to the Government's considerations as was stated by Minister Franklin and yourself in the recent Budget Estimates hearings and Upper House Inquiry hearings.

This is clearly not the case over the twelve months plus which have elapsed since the intermittent Master Planning 'Dialogues' began. Nor indeed has former Minister Harwin's undertaking to myself and invited former Powerhouse and museum experts, (Minister's Lunch, NAS, 31st July 2020), that we would be closely consulted and involved, been honoured.

In my view, Create NSW are obliged to give me a copy of the Design 5 CMP as that is what I agreed to develop with Alan Croker as the framework for the Design Principles. The CMP gives effect to the Design Principles through its assessment of significance and conservation policies. They are as one.

Please note for future reference:

The Powerhouse Museum Ultimo was not 'a 1988 extension' but an architecturally complete design concept and critical interventions for the Ultimo Power House and Ultimo Tram Depot from William Henry St to Mary Ann St - Darling Harbour Goods Line to Harris Street.

In every design sense - sustainable, architectural, engineering, environmental, collections, museum services, heritage, exhibitions, graphics - the Powerhouse Museum is a significant public cultural project that was conceived over ten amazing years by a team of Australian design talent as attested by the multiple recognitions of excellence.

From the brief information presented, the current proposals apparently ignore the 'elephant in the room'. The Powerhouse Museum Ultimo is not being 'saved', as announced by Premier Perrottet and Harwin, but rather is being hijacked by stealth, ignoring the fundamental requirements of a fully functional **Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences** - fully professional onsite museum with support services and complying with the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Act 1945 - something the present Trust might consider in their headlong rush to diminish the real Powerhouse Museum from a world renowned museum with exhibitions encompassing the full scope of the applied arts and applied sciences collections into a limited 'fashion and design folly.'

Sincerely

Lionel Glendenning

