

I OBJECT to the current round of Powerhouse 'revitalisation' plans.

These plans are wrongly presented as renovation and upgrading. They would result Not in renovation and upgrading, but rather in the outlaying of millions of public dollars to downsize and deplete a globally significant public asset.

Under this 'plan' Ultimo's exhibition space, and hence capacity for proper public display of the collection, would be drastically cut. I object to the gross misuse of public funds that would slash public access to the collections. I note the shocking figures, presented to NSW Government Budget Hearings by CEO Lisa Havilah that, after planned 'revitalisation, only 3 of 3000 current items would return to the permanent display. That reduction would undercut the integrity of the collection and break faith with its public ownership.

The Department of Planning must revisit and withdraw its earlier planning decree that the programming of museum spaces does not require approval.

NSW Government's proposed 'Heritage Revitalisation' report does not meaningfully move on from the 'Submissions and Amendment Report' rejected by the public in the last round of submissions. Only the self-deluding would hold otherwise. Why then is NSW Government upholding CEO Havilah's unfiltered bypassing of public submissions?

I am outraged at Government's determination to close the Ultimo spaces for five years, rather than to implement essential but neglected repairs and maintenance and protect the site as museum. The Museum must reopen at Ultimo as a matter of urgency, including with the reinstating of withdrawn exhibitions and items, in accordance with its obligations to the Powerhouse community and to the NSW public.

The building of the new Powerhouse building at Parramatta must not be an argument to deplete and reduce the Ultimo Museum. The failure to envisage Parramatta as an enhancement to Sydney's existing arts, science and technology museum spaces rather than as its replacement has destroyed my faith in this Government's creative planners and planning.

Please CANCEL this 'Heritage Revitalisation' project.