



12 July 2020

The Minister

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW

Government NSW

Powerhouse Parramatta

Re: - Powerhouse Parramatta SSD- 10416

Parramatta Chamber of Commerce is the second oldest Chamber in Australia: representing the businesses in the Parramatta and surrounding geographical areas for more than 100 years.

The Parramatta Chamber of Commerce supports the creation of Powerhouse Parramatta. The relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta is of major significance as it will be one of the 'day-visitor' attractions so much needed in Sydney's second CBD. The Chamber believes the Powerhouse Parramatta will significantly contribute to the growth of Parramatta's economy providing experiences that will push repeat visits and open Parramatta to be a cultural as well as sporting centre for Western Sydney. The Parramatta Powerhouse will join Bankwest Stadium in bringing growth and development to Parramatta.

The Chamber looks forward to the flow-on benefits anticipated from the predicted two million a year Powerhouse visitor to Parramatta. It will put Parramatta on the map as a destination for International and domestic travellers. Parramatta Powerhouse is an opportunity of immense value to Parramatta. We do however consider changes are required to the plan currently on exhibition.

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The Chamber continues to express concern about the loss of the two heritage properties Willow Grove and St George's Terrace, in the current design plan. We are concerned that the need for the development to provide a significant entertainment space as part of the design overrode the preservation of the City's cultural and historical aspects. The Chamber considers that this will lead to a cumulative impact on further loss of heritage within the Parramatta area already effected by the Parramatta Light Rail and Metro West construction.

The Chamber is disappointed about lost heritage and remains hopeful that some form of compromise can be found. Given the community concern and the CFMEU Green Ban imposed on Parramatta Powerhouse sites, it is hoped that a design plan which mitigates the loss can be reworked by the designer/architect to undertake feasible changes to have the heritage sites encapsulated within the new building structure. Regardless, the Chamber acknowledges this investment is critical to the future of our City.

The Chamber is also disappointed to have learnt about the imminent closure of the Powerhouse facility at Ultimo this year. This will effectively leave Greater Sydney without any such museum from 2021 until the completion of the Parramatta Powerhouse in 2024. We consider that it would have been better to maintain the existing facility up to the point that contents were required to be moved to their new Parramatta home, presumably sometime during 2024.

Subsequent to this Board approved submission, the announcement by the Treasurer and Premier on July 4 of the decision to retain the Ultimo Museum and to spread the visitor experience across 2 major locations, being Ultimo and Parramatta, is applauded by the Chamber and we believe will enable greater access to the facilities and exhibitions of the museum. We consider this to be a win for all.

We as a Chamber appreciate the opportunity to comment and would relish the opportunity to assist the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW and Powerhouse Parramatta in the further progression of this development. We remain available for further consultation as this project advances.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Schon G Condon".

Schon G Condon RFD

President

Parramatta Chamber of Commerce

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