

Dr G Harper
8 St Vincents Road
Greenwich NSW 2065
29 July 2025

To: NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

RE: Letter of objection to Powerhouse Ultimo 'Revitalisation', removal of the loading dock and other internal and external changes, SSD-67588459-Mod 1

I object to the proposed alterations and additions to the Powerhouse Museum Ultimo, at 500 Harris Street, Ultimo, under State Significant Development, SSD-67588459_Mod 1.

I note my concerns with the amended proposal:

- 1 Given that the entire site is now listed as an item of State heritage significance, the proposed modifications, as represented in the Revision G architectural drawings, is not an appropriate approach to maintaining the heritage significance of the site, both as a building complex of architectural significance, and also as an educational and cultural institution of national importance.
- 2 The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is a poorly written document that has failed to assess the aesthetic and social significance of the Wran Building. In many ways, it is a misleading document that also downplays the importance of the Wran Building during the Bicentenary celebrations in 1988.
- 3 The proposed amendment again trivialises the Wran Building and its Galleria, a steel-framed building overclad in glass and lightweight materials. To demolish a large section of this building so that it can be rebuilt and made masonry in appearance simply beggars belief. It is a design strategy that reveals how the architects have insensitively argued for more masonry so that their proposed and overly ornamented masonry courtyard "addition" is given some context. The rebuilding of the Wran Building in brick will be nothing more than a pastiche.
- 4 The amendment still does not demonstrate how the proposed exhibition spaces will accommodate the collection of the Powerhouse Museum. I argue that much has escaped the attention of this inexperienced consultancy team.

Again, I draw the Secretary's attention to the senselessness of this project, especially when its primary purpose is to "revitalise" a facility that was already operating to an international museum standard. Deliberately closed in 2024, such cultural vandalism is being reinforced by an insensitive design proposal prepared by a group of vain architects with no demonstrated experience in designing appropriate alterations to a State heritage item.

Yours sincerely



Dr Glenn Harper, an overly concerned citizen.