

# CFMEU

## CONSTRUCTION

3 December 2020

Mr Marcus Jennejohn  
NSW Planning

marcus.jennejohn@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Jennehohn

### **Re: Willow Grove and St George Terraces**

The CFMEU writes to you in regard to Willow Grove and St George Terraces in Parramatta. As you are aware the CFMEU has imposed a Green Ban on the destruction of these important buildings.

These building, dating back to the 1800's are of historical significance, not only to the people of Parramatta but for all Australians.

It is disappointing when one sees how other cities around the world preserve and take pride in their architectural history that our Government wants to do the opposite and tear these buildings down. Parramatta may not be centuries and centuries old, but these buildings are some of the earliest structure dating back to English first settlement and tell an important part of the story of Parramatta. These buildings are important to the people of Parramatta and Australia generally and would be wonderful for tourists to visit, when again people are able to travel, if properly preserved, maintained and incorporated into a proposal for a world class museum and cultural centre.

The Willow Grove mansion is of particular importance as it also represents the history of our members. Built by the forefathers of current CFMEU members, many of the skills used to build Willow Grove no longer exist and it would be a crime to eradicate the actual examples of such work permanently. This should be a place of pride and should be retained for future generation to admire and enjoy.

We are opposed to the demolition by stealth of the Willow Grove which is the proposition to relocate Willow Grove. There is no doubt that the integrity of the structure and its original features will be damaged and destroyed forever by the move. This will not be a re-building of Willow Grove it will be a poor reconstructed copy.

To move Willow Grove will also result in the loss of the connection to its location and grounds.

The CFMEU is supportive of a museum being built for the people of Western Sydney and Parramatta.

Like many examples in NSW and around the world we believe that a design can incorporate Willow Grove and St Georges Terrace if the Government is determined to build the museum at that location. You only need to look to the recent upgrade to the Australian Museum, the Old GPO in the CBD of Sydney and the Mitchell Library to see that it is more than possible to incorporate a heritage building into a modern structure.

**Construction Forestry Mining & Energy  
Union (NSW Branch)**

Level 2, 63 Miller Street, Pyrmont, NSW 2009  
Locked Bag 5015, Alexandria, NSW 2015

**Secretary:** Darren Greenfield

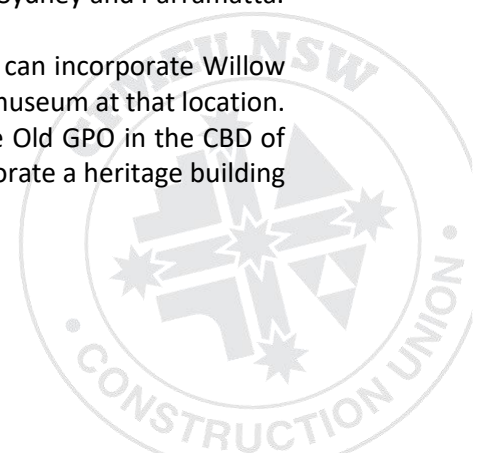
**Ph** 02 9749 0400

**Fax** 02 9649 7100

**nsw.cfmeu.org.au**

**[NSWQueries@cfmeu.org](mailto:NSWQueries@cfmeu.org)**

**ABN:** 17524350156



It is ironic that the NSW Government is willing to sacrifice a beautiful historical building to make way for a museum.

We see no reason why the people of Parramatta and Australia cannot have both.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Greenfield', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darren Greenfield  
**State Secretary**

