

I Object to the Powerhouse Parramatta project!

As a direct descendant of William Cox Esq. An explorer, road builder and pioneer in the early colonial settlement. Original builder of Fairfield House in Windsor NSW to plans by Francis Greenway, overseer of the first road over the Blue Mountains, who purchased Brush Cottage in Dundas from John Macarthur in 1800 both being paymasters in the fledgling colony, I am constantly enraged by the blatant dismissal of the State Government representatives of our Colonial Heritage and subsequent destruction of heritage sites dating from this era.

William's son and my ancestor George Cox, of Fernhill in Mulgoa, attended Kings school in Parramatta. My maternal great grandmother Mary Ellen Reedy (known as Nell) lived at 28 Marion Street Auburn NSW and in my early childhood we would visit her and her sister, aunt Elsie. We went by train from their house in Auburn to Parramatta and sat along the riverbank overlooking Willow Grove.

In my young adult years, I lived and worked in North Parramatta. After studying Make-up artistry part time, I attended many performances as a Make-up Artist at Riverside Theatre in Parramatta on the opposite bank of the river to Willow Grove. I have seen many, many floods in this region during my lifetime and recall many stories from my great aunt and great grandmother of even more floods.

As my own children grew we would visit historical sites in and around Parramatta, Penrith, Windsor & Sydney and discuss our families connection to these sites. We were participants in events throughout Sydney, including regular attendees at the Power House Museum and great fans of the original Powerhouse museum. We participated in open days and thoroughly enjoyed those events.

It is to this end that I vehemently object to the Powerhouse Parramatta project.

Not only is the site unacceptable due to its size for a project that would warrant replacing the old Powerhouse museum and cannot possibly hold the same quantity of items that was originally promised by the state government, but it has clearly been pointed out that significant damage would occur due to regular flooding events. At the expense of another item of significant heritage interest being lost to future generations. Once again, the limited capacity for the state government to assess the significance and impact of the demolition of historically significant assets is astounding. The resilience for this government to forge ahead with poorly planned and articulated projects is demonstrable and one could well feel are solid grounds for dismissal of this same government on grounds of incompetence.

I hereby hold accountable on a personal level, each and every government representative and or employee, every individual and or company acting on their direction or intention or on their behalf or suggestion that leads to the loss of and or damage of items or limits the access of the public to items of significant heritage interest, including but not limited to the Windsor Bridge & Willow Grove.

Leilani Douglass