

Objections/ Suggestions I submit to the Dep Planning, Industry & Environment

I object to the Powerhouse Museum Project in Parramatta.

A proposal put forward some years ago to create an open space and a gateway vista to the river from the town centre by demolishing the David Jones' carpark appears to have been re-imagined as a pleasure garden complete with bars, a performance space and markets at the expense of Willowgrove and the Terraces. Destroying more of Parramatta's architecturally and historically significant buildings I believe is scandalous and opportunistic.

Do we have to rely on threats by the CFMEU and the legacy of Jack Mundy before Legislators will retreat and listen to the will of the people?

Parramatta should and could have a Museum with a slightly different focus from the Powerhouse. Why not utilise the old gaol? If it is under Aboriginal guardianship/custodianship (?) what better location is there for an Indigenous Museum combined with the '1788-and-beyond' history of the Parramatta Area linked to the local history of neighbouring Western and Northern Localities. The settlements of Baulkham Hills and Castle Hill embrace a period of expansion from Parramatta. The Museum could focus on aspects of life from the viewpoints of both cultures inhabiting Parramatta and adjoining areas at a time before and after white settlement - a perfect venue for school children's excursions.

The question remains though – how does the general tourist or visiting family get to the goal location particularly in Parramatta's insufferable summers including other historic sites which are also affected by distance? One could suggest the light rail but it appears it will not be running to the ferry terminal? We seem to have a lot of unlinked transport 'types' in Parramatta and the light rail seems to reflect this as well. The Rivercat is not reliable. *Parking, transport and heat are drawbacks to tourism in Parramatta.* Having worked in heritage for 17 years in Parramatta I have an understanding of tourists' comments and the accommodation they choose whilst visiting Sydney, particularly those from overseas. A Parramatta hotel is not their choice for a three or four day stay in Sydney nor for a trip to the Blue Mountains.

Recently we lost the Royal Oak. We lost the Memorial Pool to all sorts of promises. When I expressed to a Local Member years ago that the proposed pool location was too inconvenient and far away for little kids and families he said to me, 'Oh! They will have the light rail.' When do we start believing in the people who represent us?

Consultation with local people is required, particularly from those in the tourist industry who know the routines, practices and needs of the people who come to Parramatta to visit our historic and iconic buildings. Visitors are not coming to Parramatta from London or elsewhere to visit Westfield nor would they I believe come all this way to visit the Parramatta Powerhouse Museum which, along with its architectural design is out of context with what Parramatta represents. Progress should not be measured in the height or design of a building at the expense of what came before.

Elaine Lowrey (Mrs) [REDACTED]

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