

Stephen Palmer FCPA
[REDACTED]

6 July 2020

Mr Marcus Jennejohn
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
PO Box 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Jennejohn,

LETTER OF OBJECTION TO THE POWERHOUSE PARRAMATTA PROJECT

I am writing this letter in my personal capacity as an interested citizen of NSW to set out my objection to the Powerhouse Parramatta Project, as it is currently proposed. I also confirm that I have not made any reportable donations to any political organisation.

My principal objection to the Powerhouse Parramatta Project is the planned destruction of Willow Grove and St George's Terrace at 34 and 44 Phillip Street, Parramatta. Both structures are of considerable cultural significance to their streetscape, and display differing but complementary 1880s design elements that are increasingly rare in Parramatta. In addition to this aesthetic appeal, Willow Grove has considerable social significance to the people of Parramatta owing to its past use as a maternity hospital for over three decades.

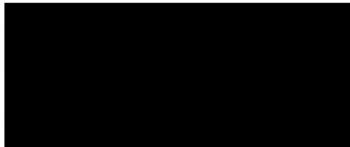
So much large-scale development has occurred in Parramatta in recent years that large parts the city I remember from the 1960s are barely recognisable. It would be a disgrace for these fine examples of 1880s architecture to be also lost, and I fully endorse the actions of the North Parramatta Residents Action Group and the CFMEU NSW in seeking to conserve these buildings for future generations.

I do not object to a new cultural institution being established in Parramatta on an alternate site, such as that proposed by the North Parramatta Residents Action Group. In addition to avoiding the destruction of Willow Grove and St George's Terrace, an alternate site should avoid the risk of damage to the museum's precious exhibits arising from flood damage at the Phillip Street site.

I am pleased that the State Government now plans to retain the Powerhouse Ultimo site, but understand from press reports that its use will be limited to exhibiting fashion items and decorative arts. While these are worthwhile aims, I object to the Ultimo site not being used for the future display of working steam-powered equipment, which has been a major attraction for museum visitors over many years. Moreover, I consider any relocation of the unique Boulton and Watt engine would be most unwise, given its age and fragility.

In conclusion, I feel that, in pursuing the Powerhouse Parramatta Project as it is currently proposed, the state government is not adhering to the principles and intent of the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW), and should be setting a leading example in retaining and conserving fine heritage structures such as Willow Grove and St George's Terrace for future generations.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Palmer