

Les Cocker

From: Les Cocker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 July 2020 10:41 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Save Willow Grove and St George Terraces, Historical Buildings in Parramatta

Dear Sir

I Object to the Powerhouse Parramatta Project.

My Reasons for objection relates to the proposed historically significant sites, both of which should remain, and which is causing major public concern both locally, and now internationally. This has created so much interest, Willow Grove and St George Terraces are now protected by a green ban, thank goodness for common sense and the CFMEU.

1. The Power House Museum belongs at "The Power House" site in Ultimo because that's what it is/was, a power house! – no alternate site can logically or reasonably carry that name.
2. Willow Grove is a beautiful, and now rare example of Victorian architecture located in a historical site in Parramatta near the historical St George Terraces. This is one of only a few rare examples of this type of architecture, whilst located in an historic precinct part of Parramatta and would be a valued museum type exhibit in itself for future generations of Australians to enjoy and cherish.
3. Destruction of Willow Grove, St Georges Terraces historical sites and the Power House building would be nothing less than an act of **architectural vandalism** of the worse type.
*The Premier should consider the **stigma** such an act will endear, for all time, such as that by a previous premier who presided over another act of architectural vandalism, the destruction of the Regent Theatre.
4. Recent articles in the Herald and conversations by informed individuals on the ABC plus many other sources, describe some huge inadequacies in the proposed design, if, perish the thought, the existing historical buildings were demolished and this "basket case" was constructed;
 - The site is **Flood Prone** which would endanger the hugely valuable collection.
 - No permanent room for iconic items such as the Locomotive 1243, Catalina air craft etc. – exhibition areas only designed for rotating displays not permanent displays.
 - The solitary working example in the world of a Boulton and Watt steam engine which is **actually powered by steam**, will cease to be a feature!
 - Visitor numbers will drop dramatically as the museum would be too far for international tourists to visit on tight schedules and no longer on the jump on and off bus route.
 - The proposed building is nothing more than a proposed extension to the entertainment precinct with nothing like the current available flexible space at the existing site for exhibitions. The current large display halls which house the bulky permanent exhibits are not replicated in the proposed design.
 - The proposed site features 10 restaurants and bars plus light entertainment – hardly the atmosphere for a World Renowned Museum such as the Power House museum which is highly acclaimed and compared to other major museums in the world such as the Tate Modern and Battersea Power Station.
 - No onsite collection storage has been provided in the design which means many, and possibly dangerous, transport sorties of exhibits to and from the current Castle Hill depot.
 - The public of NSW and grown to love the current museum, and so has a lot of the interested international community. No government has the right to rob current and future voters of a truly remarkable facility, one that has greatly contributed to Sydney's international reputation and tourist market.
5. To briefly summarise : - **Leave The Power House at the Power House.**

Yours Sincerely
Les Cocker

