

[REDACTED]
30 June 2020

Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
PO Box 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Attention: Marcus Jennejohn

Powerhouse Museum Relocation - Objection

I write to express my objection to the proposed relocation of the Powerhouse Museum from Ultimo to Parramatta. My objection is based on the following issues:

1. The expenditure of \$645 million is not warranted to replace an existing well functioning museum.
2. The exotic design does not suit Parramatta's heritage background.
3. The open space design does not allow proper exhibiting of the MAAS displays.
4. The flood prone site does not allow for basement storage of exhibits.
5. The development of the site requires demolition of two historic buildings - Willow Grove and the St Georges Terraces.
6. The existing Powerhouse Museum building is one of Sydney's remaining Engineering Heritage Recognition buildings worthy of retention.
7. The Museum building conversion from a power station to a museum in 1988 was awarded the Sir John Sulman Medal for Architecture.

My objection also stems from my personal interest in preserving the historical heritage of both the Parramatta site buildings and the Ultimo power station building.

In my early years I lived in the Harris Street terraces that were next to the Albion Hotel on the Gas Works Bridge corner, before they were demolished to make way for the Advertiser Newspaper building.

I attended Parramatta Central Primary School and then Parramatta High before studying engineering at the Uni of NSW with Ken Smith OAM, now Vice President of the Parramatta and District Historical Society. I remember visiting Ken when he was working as an engineer at the Ultimo Power Station while it was still generating power for the Sydney trams in the early 1960's.

I believe in this time of the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the funds allocated for the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum together with the \$810m for the upgrading of the ANZ Stadium, should be used for other more worthwhile projects such as social housing, to restore the NSW economy to its pre-virus state.

Yours sincerely



Frank O'Brien