

Re: Parramatta PowerHouse

I have strong objections to the move of the PowerHouse Museum from Ultimo to Parramatta.

I am a retired teacher of History and Economics, and have used the PowerHouse at Ultimo as a wonderful teaching resource across both the History syllabus and the Economics syllabus. To have such a well-organised and hands-on resource for both our junior and senior students was a fantastic gift to the school communities of NSW. I also taught Education students at the University of Sydney, in the teacher practicum courses and I regularly sent my students there to learn how to utilise it for their own classes once they were in teaching positions.

Parramatta was also always on our visit list, especially junior history courses dealing with settlement history in Parramatta. So many of the small houses and villas we used as part of our field trips have now disappeared, so it is very disappointing to see that the few remaining remnants of Parramatta's proud early history will be demolished to build the new PowerHouse.

Parramatta definitely needs a cultural centre, but it has its own interesting history and vibrant communities who can suggest themes to enable the building of a locality-sensitive collection. NSW should not destroy a world-class museum at Ultimo to give the Parramatta locale what it deserves.

As a lover of History I have visited numerous Museums around the world and the current one at Ultimo stands proud in any comparison. Indeed, stands hands and shoulders above several in Canada I visited in 2019, for which we paid a lot of money to visit.

Whenever my grandchildren visit from Melbourne, the current PowerHouse Museum is one of the first places they ask to go.

Please reconsider this decision - it is not too late and people will look favourably on a government who listens to what History-lovers and teachers have to say on the matter.

Kerry Barlow