

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the move of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta.

As a resident of Parramatta, I am excited about the redevelopment that has been occurring in Parramatta over the last few years, which has shifted the view of many on their perception of Parramatta as a city.

Growing up in Sydney's east, Parramatta had seemed almost foreign to me and I must say it was a big move for me to buy a property in Parramatta in 2015, but I did this because I could see the potential. It was obvious to me that Parramatta was a booming city and will become the central city of Sydney.

For this reason alone, our Central City deserves its own museum!

We deserve more than only 1% of Commonwealth arts program funding.

Art should not be centralised to one region, it should be widely accessible to all and to further this point, if any art is going to be of relevance to Western Sydney it will be art of popular culture, which the Powerhouse Museum has featured through its exhibitions over the years, including those of Harry Potter 2012, Star Wars 2019 and Kylie Minogue 2006 etc.

As noted by Jennifer Sanders "It is unknown if the population of the region will be a major source of visitors to a relocated Powerhouse". While, this project will cause doubt in many minds, the population of Western Sydney continues to grow, we represent 1 in 10 Australians, we have the population to make this a viable success and while Western Sydney continues to grow as a tourism destination, this will only encourage domestic and international travellers to choose Western Sydney as the place to be.

There is no time more crucial than right now to boost tourism domestically, we need to change the thought pattern of our country and encourage our people to spend their money within Australia. COVID-19 has closed our international borders, there is no time better than now to build Western Sydney's profile as a tourism destination for the future. The Powerhouse Museum will be a game-changer for other Western Sydney tourism destinations such as Sydney Zoo and Sydney Coliseum Theatre West HQ and together they can build Western Sydney to be a world class Central City.

Parramatta and Western Sydney need this project to proceed for so many reasons, we are speaking up because we are proud to live in Western Sydney, Sydney city has been the central district for art for too long now and we as a state need to move with the times, we need to evolve and most importantly we need to grow!

Kind regards,

Lauren Rountree