

I wish to strongly object the proposal to demolish some of the wonderful heritage buildings in Parramatta, namely: Willow Grove and St George's Terrace and replace them with the 'Powerhouse Parramatta Project' that will not be a museum anything like what is currently at Ultimo.

The proposed 'Powerhouse Parramatta Project' will only have a small area allocated as a museum the remainder being used for temporary exhibitions, lecture halls, events, talks, cafes, and residential.

As the proposed 'Powerhouse Parramatta Project' has proposed a small area allocated as a museum what will happen to all the wonderful exhibits like the Locomotive No.1, believed to be the only known example of its type in the world. Will they be put in storage somewhere or possibly sold? The space at the proposed 'Powerhouse Parramatta Project' will not allow for these wonderful exhibits to be placed here. Also, if some exhibits were to be placed here, they would not be in the controlled environment like at the Ultimo Museum. The Proposed 'Powerhouse Parramatta Project' building fronts the Parramatta River which has a well-known history of flooding, in fact, as recently as February this year the proposed site flooded prompting council to reconsider the proposed plans.

The Proposed 'Powerhouse Parramatta Project' building will involve demolishing the wonderful historic Italianate 'Willow Grove' c1870s which is a rare example of its type in Parramatta. It is very close to its original condition and the woodwork inside the building is exceptional. It also has a strong social history connection with Parramatta as during one of its stages of life it functioned as a maternity hospital. Also slated for demolition is St George's Terrace which consists of seven two-storey houses built c1881 and are a representative example of modest Victorian period terraces constructed during an early wave of development in the area. Willow Grove and St Georges Terraces are rare examples of architecture that no longer exist in Parramatta CBD and should be retained.

NSW has and is losing its heritage to modern development. This government and state are not appreciating our rich heritage – we should be like other countries like Europe and the UK. These countries have tourists flocking to visit their heritage buildings/sites.

