



Save the Powerhouse Campaign
savethepowerhouse@gmail.com

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
NSW Government.

Attention Candice Pon

Ultimo, 23 February, 2021

Dear Ms Pon,

We write to express our **OBJECTIONS** to the proposed Expansion of the Museums Discovery Centre in Castle Hill.

“Save the Powerhouse” is a community campaign opposed to the destruction of the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo and the sale of the site to private developers. The campaign also supports Parramatta residents’ desire to acquire their own world-class museum that reflects the area’s unique culture and history and preserves their heritage.

We object to this project for the following reasons:

- The extension will not be necessary if the Harwood Building in Ultimo retains its original/current functions (Museum backroom: collection storage and curation, exhibition preparation, etc...)
- The money saved (\$50M?) by not building the extension could be used for other projects more beneficial to the NSW community (eg: money budgeted for the extension could **pay for building 3 new regional museums**)
- Storing collections far away from the museums (at Ultimo and/or Parramatta) will put them at risk as these fragile objects will need to be transported continuously (whenever temporary exhibitions change).
Unnecessary transportation is also a waste of money and will contribute to traffic congestion in Sydney and greenhouse gas emissions.
- According to all museum experts we consulted, future exhibition preparation from a remote location is impractical and will (again) generate a lot of road traffic, with a waste of qualified staff time spent on the road.
Curators are also better located where the exhibition takes place (ie the museum!) so that they can address problems as they occur and maintain the exhibition in perfect condition (*refer Andrew Grant/Ian Debenham/Andrew Simpson’s testimony at 21-08-2020 Upper House Inquiry hearing*
<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/transcripts/2406/Transcript%20-%20Museums%20and%20cultural%20projects%20-%202021%20August%202020%20-%20Corrected.pdf> - Pages 17-27)
- Castle Hill is remote and difficult to access by public transport. It has also limited car parking space. Visitors, especially international tourists with tight itineraries, are not likely to brave the long journey to Castle Hill, (half an hour by metro plus a twenty minute walk) when the Ultimo Powerhouse is conveniently located at the heart of Sydney

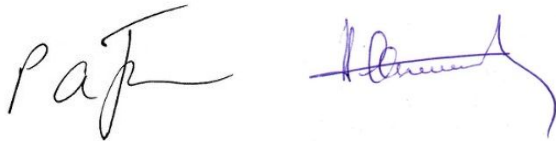
Castle Hill will therefore remain primarily as a storage centre since it cannot pretend to offer genuine alternative exhibition space (to Ultimo and Parramatta) except for a few local residents.

- We are concerned that the planned additional areas for large objects' storage could represent the 1st stage of the dismantlement of the Space, Transport and Steam Revolution permanent exhibitions in Ultimo. This is not acceptable.

- In addition we strongly object to the destruction of the museum's historic eucalypt plantation to make way for the new building.

It is ironic that MAAS is planning the destruction of this plantation at the same time that it is scheduling an "Eucalyptusdom" exhibition in June 2021 (in the same way that it plans to demolish Willow Grove in Parramatta and mount an exhibition in the new museum about the villa's rich history.

Yours faithfully,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature on the left is 'Paj' and the second signature on the right is 'Jean-Pierre Alexandre'.

Patricia Johnson & Jean-Pierre Alexandre

Save the Powerhouse

