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I object to the proposal that the Powerhouse Parramatta Museum will be built in Philip Street Parramatta for the following reasons.

I object to the plans to demolish or in any way threaten to move or modify 'Willow Grove' and St George's Terrace because of their historical significance and archaeological value. It does not make sense to destroy heritage buildings like 'Willow Grove', St George's Terrace to make way for a building that is built to house heritage items to ensure their conservation. The heritage items and buildings in Parramatta are slowly being destroyed or overtaken by high rise.

I believe the original plan was to link the Fleet Street Heritage Precinct and the Riverbank Theatre Area. It was to include a Parramatta Museum.

The Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo is a Science and Technology Museum and is linked to the Observatory and another building at Castle Hill. Parramatta needs a museum that enhances and conserves and educates about the significant Aboriginal and European history of the district.

I reject the argument that because Parramatta is the centre of Sydney it deserves the Powerhouse Museum. I believe the Parramatta district deserves a museum that is applicable to the area. Even in Gilgandra we have a Museum that is uniquely ours. Museums applicable to the whole nation, eg the Australian Natural History Museum, the Maritime Museum need to be in Sydney CBD for easy access for school groups and tourists. Don't forget the Sydney Museum and the Justice and Police Museum, all accessible in the CBD.

Several areas in Parramatta have been suggested and the most appropriate is the Fleet Street Heritage Precinct. It is among other historic buildings, it is out to the flood area and it will be serviced by the Light Rail. It is just unfortunate that the NSW Government has already paid Parramatta Council millions of dollars for the site; money that could have been used to enhance the existing Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo.

I sincerely hope that the planners and the politicians listen to the experts who have the long term experience, appreciation and understanding of what it takes to create and maintain worthwhile museums.

Margaret Piggott