

For busy people: this does not need attention from MPs themselves, but people in contact with constituents need to know that the decision to 'move' the Powerhouse Museum from Ultimo to Parramatta is NOT a 'done deal'. A new round of consultations is under way. Details are as below, but you will serve democracy if you pass on any representations on this matter to the Premier, now also Arts Minister.

Thank you

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Here are the details:

Consultation re the Powerhouse Museum 'move' to Parramatta.

We have information that constituents approaching MPs to voice objections to the 'move' of the Powerhouse Museum from Ultimo to Parramatta are being told that this is a waste of time as the process is irrevocably committed – it is a 'done deal'.

This is not so. A new round of consultations is under way. and at a webinar on 7 April Ms Havilah, CEO of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences confirmed that that the project had not yet been 'determined', and that, for example, the site proposed for the Parramatta Museum was only 'preferred'. There are still statutory requirements to be fulfilled before the process is 'determined', and until these requirements are met, it would be illegal for commercial arrangements (such as the sale of the Ultimo building site) to be commenced, and we have repeated assurances from the Government that no such undertakings have been made.

Ms Kylie Cochrane, a Public Relations expert from the firm Aurecon, has been appointed to assist this consultation process, and she and Ms Havilah agree that these consultations are still at an early stage. On 6 April in a phone conversation Ms Cochrane assured me that she was employed to conduct a genuine consultation, not like the so-called 'consultations' of mid-2018 where Elton Consulting was hired with the brief to present a favourable impression of the 'move' idea.

Both Ms Havilah and Ms Cochrane have stated that their aim is to achieve the best possible outcome for the Powerhouse Museum and I believe that we should act accordingly.

At this time of crisis due to the Coronavirus, it would seem to be desirable to hold off on any major financial decisions. There is also a consultative process under way regarding the future development of the Pymont / Ultimo area, of which the Powerhouse is an important feature. There is also in prospect a new Legislative Council Inquiry on museums, especially the 'move', and it would be ethical, even illegal, to proceed before these processes were completed.

We ask you, as a service to democratic processes, to assure your constituents that the consultative process is still open.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Tom Lockley

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0403 615 134....