

NSW Government response to the Final Report of the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 4 — Legal Affairs Inquiry into Museums and Galleries (issued 12 July 2019)

Finding 1

That the *Final Business Case for the Powerhouse Museum in Western Sydney Project* did not comply with the Treasury's Guide to Cost-Benefit Analysis.

Response: Not Supported: Since February 2016, Infrastructure NSW has undertaken six independent reviews of the New Museum in Western Sydney project, conducted by more than 30 independent reviewers including specialists in design, planning and economics.

The Final Business Case for the project demonstrates the expertise, time, detail, rigor and due diligence underpinning the planning of this project. Highly qualified consultants in cultural infrastructure, museum logistics, urban planning, construction and operations contributed via peer review processes and governance panels. The document includes an economic appraisal for the project, produced in accordance with NSW Treasury's Government Guide to Cost-Benefit Analysis.

The key parameters of the Economic Appraisal were endorsed by the Project Steering Committee which included a representative from NSW Treasury. The INSW Business Case summary indicated that it provided a sound basis for government decision making.

Recommendation 1:

That the NSW Government not proceed with the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum from Ultimo to Parramatta.

Response: Noted. The Final Business Case for the new museum was approved by cabinet in April 2018 and the NSW Government announced that the Powerhouse Museum will relocate from Ultimo to new premises on the banks of the Parramatta River. Recommendation 1

Recommendation 2

That the NSW Government restore the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo, by providing a significant injection of funding for refurbishment and expansion.

Response: Noted. The government plans to retain a creative industries presence at Ultimo following the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta.

Recommendation 3

That the NSW Government, instead of relocating the Powerhouse Museum, establish a world class cultural institution in Parramatta that reflects its own extraordinary history.

Response: Noted. The Final Business Case for the new museum was approved by cabinet in April 2018 and the NSW Government announced that the Powerhouse Museum will relocate from Ultimo to new premises on the banks of the Parramatta River.

Recommendation 4

That the NSW Government consider establishing a Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences satellite site in Western Sydney.

Response: Noted. The NSW Government remains committed to growing the arts and cultural sector in Western Sydney and across the state. This includes the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta, as announced originally in 2015 and when the Final Business Case was approved by cabinet April 2018.