

This letter was prepared by
Tom Lockley
(member of the Pyrmont History Group)
PO Box 310 Pyrmont NSW 2009
tomlockley@gmail.com

The Hon Don Harwin MLC
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney 2000
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Dear Mr Harwin

This letter is sent in an effort to assist the cause of democracy by presenting an analysis of some evaluatory material which was offered to the people attending today's Upper House Inquiry session.

About sixty people from among the approximately 100- people present collected evaluation forms. 23 people handed in their forms on the spot and the other people said they would post them to the address at the top of this letter.

You will see that respondents were did not give positive assessments on any criterion except that of the need of Western Sydney people to get the quality facilities that they deserve.

To my certain knowledge, today's attendees came from a wide range of political background. I recognised people active in the Liberal and Country Party, the ALP and greens. There is compelling evidence that this is not a party-political issue, nor a city vs westies dispute, despite attempts to categorise it as such.

We would be interested to know the results from the posted forms. The impression that we had was that the feeling of disapproval of the process, coupled with the desire to see that the Western Sydney people get the quality facilities that they deserve, was virtually unanimous. In the absence of any information to the contrary on this subject from you, we will assume that our impressions are correct.

In the unanswered questions submitted to the 'consultation' meetings in July last year, and the questions given to Mr Limkin on May 4, we asked for details of your investigations underlying your department's claims that there was overwhelming support for the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta. These are the questions as asked in the 4 May booklet, page 8, on this subject:

The government has stated that over 500,000 individuals and business have been consulted and that the consequent conclusion was drawn that there

was overwhelming support for the 'move'. Can we have full details of the manner of consultation and the results that have been obtained? What sort of information about the project was given to the respondents to enable them to make a reasoned judgement? Can you give independent assessors access to the consultation reports of these 500 000 people? Were they collected by researchers or were they online surveys? Can you provide the websites involved? We are unable to locate more than ten or twenty people that have been subjects of research studies conducted by government agencies and, as at the sham 'consultation' meetings held last July, they were asked what they wanted to see in the new museum at Parramatta, never the basic question of should the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences be moved to Parramatta, or what alternatives were preferred. This is very poor practice. Can the government provide evidence to the contrary?

In our previous question booklet we proved that no attempt was made by Parramatta Council under administration to conduct research until some time after March 2017.

The government has

- failed to answer simple questions such as these,
- ignored the strong evidence presented by witnesses against the 'move' at the Legislative Council Inquiry
- ignored the overwhelming quantity and quality of the submissions to the Inquiry that opposed the idea and suggested better alternatives
- ignored the interim report of the Legislative Council Inquiry
- refused to give out basic information on the 'move' process on the very dubious grounds that this is cabinet in confidence'

Please release the information supporting your claims or recognise that the original proposal, though of excellent intent, is deeply flawed. There is no shame in changing the method used to achieve a great goal when deficiencies in the present process is found. The more shameful course of action is to persist in a project that is obviously flawed and financially wasteful, to say nothing of the degradation of the museum's wonderful heritage.

Thank you for reading this letter. Copies will be sent to today's Inquiry participants and to other interested parties for their information.

Tom Lockley

Participants were offered the opportunity to collect this evaluation form:

I would like to help with assessment of your process in planning the move of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta.

I have marked the box that best expresses my judgement (SA strongly agree A: agree N: neutral D: disagree SD: strongly disagree).

The Parramatta people must get the quality cultural facilities that they deserve and want	SA	A	N	D	SD
The basic 'move' idea was adequately researched before being announced	SA	A	N	D	SD
The initial budget calculations were adequate and sound	SA	A	N	D	SD
The current plan represents the best possible use of taxpayers' money	SA	A	N	D	SD
The process of the choice of site for the new museum was democratic and the best possible decision was made	SA	A	N	D	SD
The stakeholders have been appropriately consulted	SA	A	N	D	SD
The heritage values of the current Powerhouse Museum have been adequately considered	SA	A	N	D	SD
The government's provision of information to the electorate has been appropriate throughout	SA	A	N	D	SD
The government has taken adequate account of public input eg in petitions and the Upper House Inquiry process	SA	A	N	D	SD
Overall the government's decision to move the Powerhouse to Parramatta is excellent	SA	A	N	D	SD

(Space for name, address etc)

These are the results from among the 23 responses

(SA strongly agree A: agree N: neutral
D: disagree SD: strongly disagree).

Number of responses /23 shown	SA	A	N	D	SD
The Parramatta people must get the quality cultural facilities that they deserve and want	22				1
The basic 'move' idea was adequately researched before being announced				1	22
The initial budget calculations were adequate and sound				2	21
The current plan represents the best possible use of taxpayers' money				1	22
The process of the choice of site for the new museum was democratic and the best possible decision was made				1	22
The stakeholders have been appropriately consulted			2	1	20
The heritage values of the current Powerhouse Museum have been adequately considered				1	22
The government's provision of information to the electorate has been appropriate throughout				1	22
The government has taken adequate account of public input eg in petitions and the Upper House Inquiry process					23
Overall the government's decision to move the Powerhouse to Parramatta is excellent					23

