



# The Hon Natalie Ward MLC

## Member of the NSW Legislative Council



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Tom Lockley  
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Dear Mr Lockley

### **POWERHOUSE MUSEUM RELOCATION**

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 August 2018 regarding the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta.

On 28 April 2018, the NSW Government announced the relocation of the Powerhouse to Parramatta. I am proud to say that the new Powerhouse museum will be the largest museum in NSW, and will be home to Australia's largest planetarium, which will feature ultra-high resolution 3D video and audio. The new museum will also include dedicated play areas and education labs devoted to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

The new museum will form the centrepiece of a new arts and cultural precinct on the banks of the Parramatta River, alongside a revamped Riverside Theatres performing arts centre. Later this year, the NSW Government will hold an international design competition for the new museum, and we are also developing a masterplan for the precinct which will respond to the location and Parramatta's identity.

Following the Powerhouse's relocation to Parramatta, the NSW Government plans to retain cultural spaces at Ultimo. A planned new design and fashion museum would showcase the MAAS collection and would celebrate the best of Australian and international practice across design, fashion, creativity and architecture.

The NSW Government is also planning a new 1500-seat Broadway-style theatre at Ultimo which would provide a state-of-the-art performance space for musicals, live music and screen-based programming. The new theatre would increase Sydney's international competitiveness for first-run major touring musicals and theatrical productions. It would be funded, built and run by a commercial operator, which would be selected through an open competitive process.

The new design and fashion museum and theatre will form part of a creative industries precinct at Ultimo, for which a detailed masterplan is being developed. In line with good contemporary urban planning practice, the precinct will incorporate commercial, educational and residential elements.

We have also announced a significant upgrade to the Museums Discovery Centre at Castle Hill, which will increase storage and collection care spaces by 35%, providing capacity for continued care of the state's valuable collections.

For more information and to subscribe to email updates, you may wish to visit the MAAS project website at [new.maas.museum](http://new.maas.museum).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Natalie Ward', written in a cursive style.

**The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC**

Received 10 October 2018

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