

May 17

Hello everyone

Thanks for the various contributions to the debate on what is best to do, to try to get a sensible outcome. I also believe that the powerhousemuseumalliance website is being updated shortly and this will be welcome. A general comment is that the efforts being made are fragmented, and some form of overall coordination is needed. Let's continue the debate for a week or so then decide on what to do.

The purpose of this email is just to pass on some letters received recently.

The first underlines the continuing stubbornness of the proponents of the move. Many of the replies to the letters sent by me and so many others over the past six weeks to government politicians have simply said that the matter has been referred to the Minister for the Arts.

The Minister for the Arts did not reply but delegated that to one Michael Brearley, Acting Executive Director of Arts Australia, which is described as the NSW Government's arts policy and funding body who provides advice to the Minister for the Arts on how to sustain and develop arts and culture. This reply has absolutely no relevance to the letters sent and simply reiterates the current policy.

Jillian Skinner, MLA for North Sydney, sent the second attached letter. A paragraph within it refers to a new arts precinct in the CBD, 'based around the Sydney Opera House and extending through to a new Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, Barangaroo in the west and the Australian Museum in the east' but clearly indicating that the PHM will move to Parramatta.

The third attachment is more positive. From Leon Walker, Executive Director of Property NSW, it states that my suggestion 'that it is government policy to demolish the heritage buildings is incorrect', that the matter is being investigated and the planning is in its early stage with account being taken of the site zoning and heritage protection..... and 'due to the lead time to develop and relocate [PHM] to Parramatta it is likely to be some time before a decision is made on the future use of the Ultimo site'.

If you are interested, many of the replies received from various people can be found on <http://lockoweb.com/heritagephm/correspondence.htm>.

Once again, thanks to everyone for your support and encouragement.



**Arts  
NSW**

IM16/8852

Mr Tom Lockley  
PO Box 301  
PYRMONT NSW 2009

Dear Mr Lockley

Thank you for your letter dated 28 March 2016 concerning the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum, including your booklet highlighting the heritage features of the existing buildings. Your letter has been referred to Arts NSW for reply.

I appreciate you taking the time to document the heritage value of the Powerhouse Museum Precinct and will ensure this information is kept on file for further reference. I can assure you that future development of the site will be subject to normal planning processes, including the heritage protections that apply to the site. Proceeds from the urban renewal of the existing Powerhouse Museum site in Ultimo will be committed to funding the new museum at Parramatta.

Relocating the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta is part of developing a wider arts and cultural precinct for Western Sydney. Establishing the Powerhouse Museum in Parramatta will support the growth of the arts and culture sector, tourism and the visitor economy by providing a vibrant new experience for visitors from across Greater Sydney, Australia and the world.

The new Powerhouse Museum will be situated at a site on the banks of the Parramatta River. This site will deliver a vibrant, exciting community hub that can be easily accessed and enjoyed day and night. Detailed planning and design will now commence to realise the new Powerhouse Museum which will be a contemporary museum in a smart and creative city, and a beacon of art, culture and innovation in Western Sydney.

The unique opportunity that this new museum presents will allow more of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences world-class collection to be on display than ever before with the size of the collection on display set to increase by at least 40 per cent. It provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a museum for the future, responding to the changing shape of Sydney, new methods of content delivery, design innovation, learning and collaboration.

Arts NSW  
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The NSW Government looks forward to working in close partnership with Parramatta City Council and the community to design and deliver this new cultural destination for NSW. Through recognising the strengths of Sydney, Western Sydney and Regional NSW, the NSW Government will grow the arts and cultural sector across our State.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Brealey', written in a cursive style.

**Michael Brealey**  
A/Executive Director

**- 6 MAY 2016**



Mr T Lockley  
PO Box 301  
PYRMONT NSW 2009

**Ref** GPCEO16/008214

Dear Mr Lockley

**Demolition of Powerhouse Museum buildings**

We refer to your letter of 1 May 2016 on the above topic and thank you for your interest in and concern for the future of the Powerhouse site in Ultimo.

Whilst the Government has committed to the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta, no decision has been made on the future use or sale of the existing Powerhouse Museum site in Ultimo and your suggestion that it is Government policy to demolish the heritage buildings is incorrect.

Property NSW has been engaged to advise the Government on possible future uses for the Ultimo site. This work is in its early stages, and it will consider a range of possible future uses that take account of site zoning and heritage protection.

Due to the lead time to develop and relocate the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences to Parramatta, it is likely to be some time before a decision is made on the future use of the Ultimo site.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leon Walker', written over a horizontal line.

**Leon Walker**  
Executive Director, Major Projects

12/05/16



The Hon  
**Jillian Skinner MP**

**Member For North Shore  
Minister For Health**

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Mr Tom Lockley  
PO Box 301  
PYRMONT 2009

Dear Mr Lockley

Thank you for correspondence concerning the proposed demolition of the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo. Thank you too for your comments about the refurbishment of the Moore Park sporting facilities, the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, the Stanton Library and Don Bank Museum.

The NSW Government is committed to expanding the arts and cultural sector across the whole of NSW and in February 2015 launched the first NSW Arts and Cultural Policy Framework - *Create in NSW*. This Framework is guided by the principles of Excellence, Access and Strength, and provides strategic direction for arts and culture over the next 10 years, with specific actions for Sydney, Western Sydney and Regional NSW.

I am sure you appreciate that relocating the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta is part of developing a wider arts and cultural precinct for Western Sydney, and establishing it in Parramatta will support the growth of the arts and culture sector, tourism and the visitor economy by providing a vibrant new experience for visitors from across Greater Sydney, Australia and the world.

Sydney's CBD is home to some of Australia's best cultural programs, festivals and experiences and the NSW Government remains committed to strengthening Sydney's position as a global centre for arts and culture in the Asia Pacific. We are working towards a defined arts and cultural precinct for the Sydney CBD based around the Sydney Opera House, extending through to a new Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, Barangaroo in the west and the Australian Museum in the east. In defining this precinct, we will activate sites to ensure Sydney has a thriving cultural and artistic scene that is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. The new Powerhouse Museum will be situated at a site on the banks of the Parramatta River, which will deliver a vibrant, exciting community hub that can be easily accessed and enjoyed day and night. Detailed planning and design will now commence to realise the new Powerhouse Museum which will be a contemporary museum in a smart and creative city, and a beacon of art, culture and innovation in Western Sydney.

The unique opportunity that the new museum presents will allow more of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences world-class collection to be on display than ever before with the size of the collection on display set to increase by at least 40 per cent. It provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a museum for the future, responding to the changing shape of Sydney, new methods of content delivery, design innovation, learning and collaboration.



Proceeds from the urban renewal of the existing Powerhouse Museum site in Ultimo will be committed to funding the new Museum at Parramatta and the divestment process will be managed by Government Property NSW with future development of the site being subjected to normal planning processes and heritage protections that apply to the site.

The NSW Government looks forward to working in close partnership with Parramatta City Council and the community to design and deliver this new cultural destination for NSW. Through recognising the strengths of Sydney, Western Sydney and Regional NSW, the NSW Government will grow the arts and cultural sector across our State.

Yours faithfully



**Jillian Skinner MP**

13 MAY 2013