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13 March 2022

Secretary,
NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
52 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000

Copies sent via the contact email system for the Premier and the Minister for the Arts

Request for proper acknowledgement of my expressions of concern re the Powerhouse 'move'.

Since mid-2016 I have been the convener of an email group which has collected information about the proposed 'move' of THE Powerhouse MUSEUM from Ultimo to Parramatta.

Since May 2018 I have been collating aspects of this information into fact sheets, copies of which have been sent to the Government and related Government instrumentalities. I have asked that the facts be acknowledged and hoped that appropriate action would be taken to overcome the deficiencies listed.

The fifth major version is attached. As always, I ask that any errors should be pointed out to me, and promise to publicise them widely.

The issues raised have never been addressed. Typically the matter is referred to the Ministry for the Arts and in due course I receive a response which simply says that this is a wonderful project, 'first time a major Sydney cultural institution has been located outside the central city area', 'a once in a generation opportunity to change the cultural landscape' and similar statements.

I had hoped that in a democracy such as ours is supposed to be, that the Government would easily be able to refute the serious claims made. However the Government has been extremely secretive. There have also been errors of fact made by Government functionaries and in Government sponsored reports but the Government has not even taken the opportunity to correct these matters when they have been reported.

I have included a list of issues on which the Government could supply information justifying their actions without impinging on such matters is cabinet confidentiality. I invite the Government to take action as suggested. However past experience indicates that this will not be done.

The consensus of the museum/arts community is that the best outcomes that can be expected from the present Government policy are:

- Parramatta will receive a facility that is not a world class museum in the proper sense. The proposed 'Parramatta Powerhouse' does not reflect Parramatta's highly significant history and culture and is not the preferred option of informed Parramatta people.
- The world class Ultimo museum will lose much of its heritage significance, notably the synergy engendered by the magnificent historical buildings. The establishment of the magnificent steam engine collection in Australia's first commercial power station is a prime example. .
- And in the process hundreds of millions of dollars will be wasted.

the Government obviously believes differently.

I have given up expecting a rational response to the many criticisms that have been made in many ways, notably in the Finding of the Legislative Council *Inquiry into museums and galleries*. But I am concerned that when the suboptimal outcome forecast above does eventuate, the responsible people will try to claim that they had not been warned.

At the least, I request a response to this correspondence acknowledging that it has been received and considered by the people who are responsible for the basic decisions in this process..

Thank you very much for any attention you may give to this matter

(Signed) Tom Lockley