

Attachment 2: Things we need to know.

Over the years, the Government has been required to release some information, but this has been manifestly unsatisfactory. Some information on basic matters is needed so that the Government's decision-making process can be properly examined. This includes

1. Release of all research into alternatives to the 'move' of the museum to Parramatta, done either before the announcement of 26 November 2014 or since. The only mention of this that we can find is the work done by Ms Macgregor that led to her statement that moving the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta was a 'perfect fit'. We need particularly to see her basis for this recommendation.
2. Acknowledgement of the fact that the financial forecasts set out in Deloitte document *Building Western Sydney's Cultural Arts Economy* (2015) and the Hill PDA study February 2017 (page 4) were completely wrong, and were used as a basis for the original recommendation. These documents were still being quoted in 2021. It seems clear that this serious error has been factored in to the faulty 'move' decision.
3. Release of all public consultation and research done while the Hon. Troy Grant was Minister for the Arts. We have found no trace of this happening, despite assertions of huge public support for the 'move'
4. Explanation of why the consultation process which began in about November 2016 did not accept comments on the overall desirability of the 'move'. People consulted have been presented with the reality of the 'move' and asked only for comment on matters of detail.
5. The relevant treasury documents state that at the outset of a major project a 'base case', (the situation at the outset of the project) should be prepared. Alternatives should then be evaluated. It is clear that this was not done in 2014. On 2 September 2018 Inquiry evidence revealed that it had been recently determined that the base case was now the Government's intention to 'move' the museum. We seek the legal basis for such a change, and invite any defence of this in terms of democratic process.
6. The Government has stated that the purchase of the Parramatta museum site was in accordance with the wishes of the Parramatta Council. This is clearly wrong, and we would like acknowledgement of this fact.
7. We request release of the decision-making process of the reprieve of the museum announced on July 4 2020. This appears to be yet another basic decision made by a small group within the Government. There was no consultation, eg with the Trustees or the CEO, and apparently also no input from people with museum qualifications and experience.
8. Release of the decision-making process regarding the new emphasis on having 'a museum dedicated to design and fashion' announced on 15 June 2021. The comments in the previous section apply here also.
9. Clarification of what exactly is meant by having a 'museum dedicated to design and fashion'. Government spokespeople have suggested that this does not preclude treatment of industrial history, etc, but specifics are unclear.
10. Details of involvement of people with museum experience and qualifications in basic decision-making. The only possible examples we can find are the few hours spent by the aborted Peer Review Group/Panel in September 2018. There have been no apparent outcomes from the *Masterplanning Dialogue* and *Curatorial Dialogue* events of late 2020.
11. Publication of the fire regulations that necessitated the destruction of the level 1 display cabinets in early 2021. These were an integral part of the original construction of the Museum.

12. Explanation of the manner in which the destruction s of the transport hall and the Ecologic area was carried out. It did not meet acceptable museum standards.
13. Explanation of why a Conservation Management Plan was not an integral part of the initial proposal of 26 November 2014.
14. Explanation of why the destruction of the Powerhouse Museum was not totally halted after July 4 2020 pending the development of a Conservation Management Plan.
15. A clear statement about the future of the remaining traditional features of the museum. In particular, we would like assurance that the steam gallery - certainly the best such display in the Southern Hemisphere and one of the best in the world – should be retained in its present site, the first industrial power station in the world. This is beautifully built, and the synergy of the building and the housed exhibits is an example of excellent museum practice.