



PRESERVING AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST GARDEN SUBURB

P.O. BOX 85, HUNTERS HILL, N.S.W. 2110

21-7-2022 Powerhouse Ultimo EIS Objection F

Objection to SSD-32927319 - Concept Proposal for the renewal of Powerhouse Ultimo

The Hunters His Trust writes in objection to the EIS in respect of the above proposed redevelopment of the Ultimo Powerhouse Museum site. We wish to add the Trust's voice to others in the community who have been fighting for a just outcome. It is simply outrageous that a museum designed for a working life of more than 100 years is being dismantled after just 33 years at a staggering cost to the NSW taxpayers who have already invested in this museum through direct funding, taxpayer funding, donations and volunteer time over more than a century of its existence.

No other country in the world would embark on such a path of cultural vandalism of dismantling and destroying a much loved and regarded cultural institution that is within a suite of significant heritage-listed buildings and is a ground-breaking and renowned adaptive re-use of industrial heritage. This site is not a 'development opportunity'!

The current NSW Government has been responsible for the ongoing dismantling and diminution of what was an internationally significant and respected Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences - sitting alongside similar cultural institutions around the world as custodians of our important social, technological and creative history. Its collections, scholarship and programs played a critical role in supporting learning and scholarship, education and community engagement and above all - custodianship and care of our heritage and knowledge for future generations.

The renewal of the original cultural institution in 1988 as a legacy from the Australian Bicentennial was a magnificent undertaking requiring enormous resources and expertise to achieve. This combined expertise should not be underestimated in terms of the investment that is proposed to be dismantled. The architectural design by Lionel Glendenning won the Sulman Award in 1988 - one of our Australian architectural communities' most significant awards that recognised its world class creation of the museum's purpose, form, function and facilities.

The Trust is dismayed at the disregard for the millions of dollars of existing investment in this facility creating purpose built environments, security systems, laboratories, storage and environmental conditions to preserve our inherited assets as well as the technology to maintain priceless technology in working condition.

The proposed enormous waste of taxpayer funds to create something that reflects only a part of this fine institution's original purpose and destroys such purpose-built facilities is unconscionable. The removal of the world significant technology long associated with the history of our nation and this part of Sydney - and that sits so importantly with the history of the creative industries is incomprehensible. The creative industries sit alongside the development of our technological advancements and have in the previous heydays of the museum been seen energetically as part of and in context to this. Why are we proposing the removal of the Catalina and Locomotive 1 and at what cost? Why are we putting at risk the Boulton and Watt Steam Engine - one of only two remaining in the world, and like several other steam engines of the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo, operating with live steam.

Alister Sharp, President

21 July 2022