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From: noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 4 February 2022 5:33 PM
To: DPE CSE Pyrmont Peninsula Mailbox
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox
Subject: Webform submission from: Pyrmont Peninsula sub-precinct master plans

Submitted on Fri, 04/02/2022 - 17:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Jennifer

Last name

Sanders

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Russell Lea 2046

Please provide your view on the project

I object to it

Submission

Submission RE: Pyrmont Peninsula Sub-Precinct Master Plans (PPSPMP)

I am writing as a representative of the Powerhouse Museum Alliance, a group of concerned citizens working to keep the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo and develop a distinctive museum for Parramatta – one that is unique to its history, cultures and contemporary life. We are calling on the government to create a fair and equitable museum plan which supports museums and communities in Western Sydney and regional NSW and landmark museums in Sydney – notably the Powerhouse Museum. The Alliance represents former Powerhouse Museum trustees, Life Fellows, long standing benefactors, design and heritage experts and senior museum professionals.

The Powerhouse Museum has been the leading cultural institution in Ultimo since 1893 where it has been in purpose-built museum buildings for more than 127 years. The Museum has a distinguished record as leader of the Ultimo cultural and educational precinct, a precinct modelled on the museum, education and tourism precinct of South Kensington, London.

The Museum's 1988 renaissance as the award winning Powerhouse Museum, housed in fit for purpose buildings including heritage – the former Ultimo Power House and Ultimo Tram Depot (aka Harwood Building) and contemporary architecture, represents a significant public and private investment in the State's heritage and cultural assets.

The 4 July 2020 announcement by the Government that the Powerhouse Museum would not be relocated to Parramatta confirms that the Powerhouse Museum will continue to play a leading role in this precinct engaging visitors from across Sydney, NSW, Australia and the world.

I strongly object to this plan which fails to acknowledge the Powerhouse Museum as a major state museum as defined by ICOM, the International Council of Museums:

"A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires,

conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.”
Instead, the document describes the Museum’s site and precinct with the weasel words – ‘capable of change’ and goes onto to list a range of ‘uses’ for the Museum’s site and buildings which are superfluous to the Museum’s purpose and represent a perversion of its history, legislated role and its established museum functionality as a NSW Government major public collecting and exhibiting institution, belonging to the people of NSW.
Quote from the PPPS and then the very suboptimal 'summary' exhibition documents:
'Support knowledge-based jobs growth in Ultimo anchored by the Powerhouse Museum, TAFE NSW Ultimo Campus, UTS and ABC:
a. grow and diversify spaces to be used for research and innovation.
b. provide affordable workspaces for creative industries.
c. reuse heritage buildings for creative, cultural and community uses.
d. create theatre, performance, production, rehearsal and exhibition space
e. enhance open spaces; for example, through public art, and public access to these spaces.....

I strongly object to these motley proposals, to the proposed ‘Academy’ and to all associated ‘creative/commercial activities’ which will erode and diminish the Powerhouse Museum’s capacity to fulfill its purpose as one of the State’s leading cultural institutions. Furthermore, I most strongly object to the inclusion of the Harwood Building – the former Ultimo Tram Depot – in a proposed ‘taller buildings cluster’ in an area designated as ‘capable of change’
The Harwood Building is an integral and essential component of the Powerhouse Museum. It is integral to the industrial heritage of the Powerhouse Museum – the building housed the trams which the Power House powered. Furthermore, the Harwood Building is part of the Museum’s history, its design and its operational and functional capability.
It is world’s best practice for a museum to have all the core operational facilities on site: accessible, safe and secure collection storage; conservation workshops and laboratories, registration and collection management facilities; curatorial and research – library, archives, collection records, photo library; photography, exhibition design and construction, interactives design and construction, audio-visual and print media production and touring exhibition management, building maintenance services as well as secure loading dock etc.
The Harwood Building Ultimo Tram Depot has been owned by the Museum since 1964 and its renewal as the essential collection and operations facility transformed the Museum’s ability to fulfill its purpose as a major State museum.
The PPPS describes ‘transformations, changes and activities’ which are anathema to the renewal of the world renowned Powerhouse Museum as announced by the then Treasurer Dominic Perrottet and Arts Minister Don Harwin on July 4 2020.
On the other hand, the proposed rejuvenation of Harris Street as the historic urban spine of the Pymont peninsula with associated streetscape improvements and heritage interpretative elements plus, the celebration of Ultimo’s heritage are all significant urban enhancement initiatives which will strongly complement the presence, purpose and programs of a renewed Powerhouse Museum as promised on July 4 2020.

Jennifer Sanders
Former Deputy Director Powerhouse Museum

I agree to the above statement
Yes