

From: noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au
To: [DPE_CSE Pyrmont Peninsula Mailbox](#)
Cc: [DPE_PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Pyrmont Peninsula sub-precinct master plans
Date: Thursday, 3 February 2022 6:30:52 PM

Submitted on Thu, 03/02/2022 - 18:30

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Dr Lindsay

Last name

Sharp

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

[REDACTED]

Please provide your view on the project

I object to it

Submission

The three options above do not really fit my position: I support some of the strategy, regard other parts as deceptive and think the lacuna in respect to Ultimo both shocking/ahistorical and misleading, bordering on cultural and heritage 'criminality'.

I am the Founding Director of the Powerhouse Museum and have run three such International status museums in NSW, Toronto (Canada) and London, UK. I have consulted with and for many o her heritage, museum and cultural sites and institutions.

Having worked in Ultimo for twelve years and having lived in Glebe for twenty I know the sub precincts well. We also have long standing friends and colleagues who own an historic bank building on Harris Street in Pyrmont with a culturally significant retail business for over thirty years. As a developer for about three years, focused on Darling Harbour, I have a reasonable grasp of the transport and visitational dynamics overall.

I am now quoting the PPS 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.....

2. Rejuvenate Harris Street as the historic urban spine of the Peninsula:

- f. improve the streetscape and activation, enhancing heritage buildings and increasing tree cover.
- g. install heritage interpretative elements

3. Celebrate Ultimo's heritage, particularly within or adjacent to heritage items and the Harris Street Heritage Conservation Area, and as heritage buildings are adapted for new uses.'

AND:

'Ultimo

Ultimo is a centre for creativity and learning
that will reinvigorate the Harris Street heritage
conservation zone with a series of connected
education campuses.'

Nowhere in these glossy documents does the international industrial and urban heritage of the Ultimo Powerhouse Museum, extended and transmuted in 1988 into one of the world's most significant such sites, get a mention.

The moveable heritage of transport and power generation/steam in the industrial revolution within these fitting and magnificent buildings has, until recently, been the best of its kind in the world. Based on the Museum's own statements, as a professional museologist of forty years, and their actions, this commentator can only state that it appears ignorance and a lack of understanding of these key cultural and heritage facts has influenced not only your department's core two documents quoted above but also potential 'planning' for the Ultimo PHM building complex. As noted recent actions internally seem to have illustrated forcefully this wanton ignorance.

There is, as yet, no Conservation Management Plan and the signs thus far suggest any resulting plans of current processes will be farcical and an international embarrassment.

Yet your own documents and 'planning' to date seem to have been deeply imbued with the same apparent ignorance and trendy, facile thought bubbles and superficial linguistics so redolent of this 'luvvie' brigade.

The core of all this seems to be a desire, and an intent, to dismantle the key elements of the world-class 1988 architectural and cultural/museological statement by destroying the original tram depot, the reason for the Powerhouse in the first place, knocking down Lionel Glendenning's linking Post Modern masterpiece, the 'Wran' building and stripping out the Turbine halls and the Boiler Hall. Such ignorance may soon emerge internationally as the act of vandals. It may well prove to be a profound cultural embarrassment if it does.

Since the paragraphs quoted appear to permit and even encourage such barbarism, encouraging this heritage destruction when read closely, the voting public will hold the various Ministers and your department accountable..

In addition the slippery 'disappearance' of the 'developable/changeable' zone of the Powerhouse Museum from the latest plans suggest that there may be an unwritten intent to permit significant new development on the Tram Depot site and on other parts within the overall curtilage established in 1988. This may well be at a kind of height up to 68 metres. This would be a betrayal, of core heritage preservation principles, of the most blatant kind.

And don't look to the State's Heritage Council to properly carry out independent and appropriate assessment in this specific instance- to most informed viewers it seems to long ago have lost any credible position over the Powerhouse Museum 1988 conversion of these magnificent, historic, industrial heritage buildings. If so, there seems to this observer no apparent reason beyond that of his august body cringing for favour in the face of a wasteful and ignorant Government.

And, just in case a reader might think this objector fails to be interested in human creativity- theory, science and practice- may I point out that in the opened Powerhouse Museum the first introductory exhibit focused on that subject and that, for six years, I advised a massively wealthy Foundation in Santa Monica on conceptualising and creating a museum and interactive gardens (200 acres) on that subject worth now, in Australian dollar terms, around \$600 million plus.

The Ultimo Powerhouse Museum retention promise by the present Premier appears to have been profoundly sub-optimal as matters now appear. Any redevelopment of this site which affects its magnificent 1988 coherence and world-class characteristics is a travesty, especially if massive new carbuncular towers are part of that set of projects.

I strenuously object to these aspects of the exhibited 'plan'.

I agree to the above statement

Yes