



**Public Service Association of NSW**

**General Secretary** Stewart Little **President** Nicole Jess

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In reply, please quote: SL:vv

4 July 2023

The Hon. John Graham, MLC  
Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts,  
Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and  
Minister for Jobs and Tourism  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Thank you for meeting with PSA delegates and myself yesterday. It was good to have a frank discussion in respect of the current situation with the Powerhouse Museum.

The previous government's decision in 2015 to close the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo and move it to Parramatta was met with a significant campaign from the PSA, Community Groups and the then Labor Opposition which was successful in overturning that decision.

The current plan, which is a minimal retention of the Powerhouse Museum at its Ultimo site, is still far from what the PSA and community expectations are for this important cultural institution.

As expressed to you, the view of our members is that the current Museum leadership (as appointed by the previous government) is continuing with its plans that will see the closure of the Ultimo site, relocation of staff and collections at great cost to the taxpayer and will see little but the original brickwork of the power station retained.

It is our strong view that the current trust and management team should not control the development of both the Ultimo and Parramatta sites. A separate trust should be retained for the Parramatta facility. This will avoid a clear and apparent conflict of interest that is not in the best interest of the Ultimo facility.

We have further concerns as to the outsourcing of the curation, design and creative management to external providers and consultants. We would ask that we are provided with details of all consultants and contractors that are currently engaged by the Powerhouse management team. We note there are currently ten Senior Executive Service positions overseeing less than two hundred FTE employees. We would also seek that the union is provided with details of all employees who are engaged in temporary, casual, and insecure employment.

It is our view, and the view of numerous stakeholders, that there is the ability to retain the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo, save the taxpayer millions of dollars, as well as provide a new cultural institution at Parramatta. We find it insulting that the current management will seek to close the Ultimo facility prior to the Parramatta facility opening.

The PSA seeks your direct involvement to stop the current change process that forces staff to relocate against their wishes. We support an expression of interest process to deploy staff at the Castle Hill site and when appropriate the Parramatta facility.

We seek a plan that will keep the Powerhouse Museum open to the public while repairs, expansion and restoration takes place at Ultimo.

I am happy to meet further at any time to progress this iconic cultural institution.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stewart Little', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Stewart Little  
General Secretary