

Bulletin 16: 14 February 2017



The attitude of the new minister for the Arts:

Left: The Honourable Donald Thomas Harwin, LIB BEc (Hons).

When the new minister for the arts was installed at Parliament House, we sent a letter congratulating him and suggesting that in view of the overwhelming evidence that has been presented, the new cabinet should reconsider the move to Parramatta. A summary of the salient points was included with the booklet on the museum's heritage.

Today I received a reply from the Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Arts, on behalf of the minister, which completely ignores the points made. The key passage in the reply is

Establishing the new museum in Parramatta is part of developing a wider arts and cultural precinct for Western Sydney. It will support the growth of the arts and culture sector, tourism and the visitor economy by providing a vibrant new experience for visitors from across Greater Sydney, Australia and the world.

In other words, absolutely no consideration has been given to the arguments presented.

This is exactly the same paragraph as in over 40 letters from government MPs sent in response to our little campaign, over a period of nearly a year.

It is absolutely amazing that despite all the letters, petitions, inquiry, advertisements etc that the government has not considered any change to their disastrous policy. Some **facts**:

- The economics of the move are demonstrably disastrous
- There has been no proper consultation with stakeholders including even Parramatta council
- Parramatta people have presented an alternative that will cost a fraction of the amount needed to move the Powerhouse and will produce a magnificent outcome
- The government has simply told the professionals what they want done, with no apparent rationale
- The plan involves serious vandalism of Australian heritage

We could all go on adding to this list, but the key point is that a huge, wide ranging coalition of people has presented an overwhelming case for the retention of the museum in Ultimo and has been totally ignored. We still have options, and are ready to continue the struggle. Politicians throughout the world are learning that it is not wise to ignore the opinions of the people, and when the case is as strong as ours, it will eventually prevail.

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<https://powerhousemuseumalliance.com/> See

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Remember the Mummies exhibition!

