

Selling museum land is the government's aim

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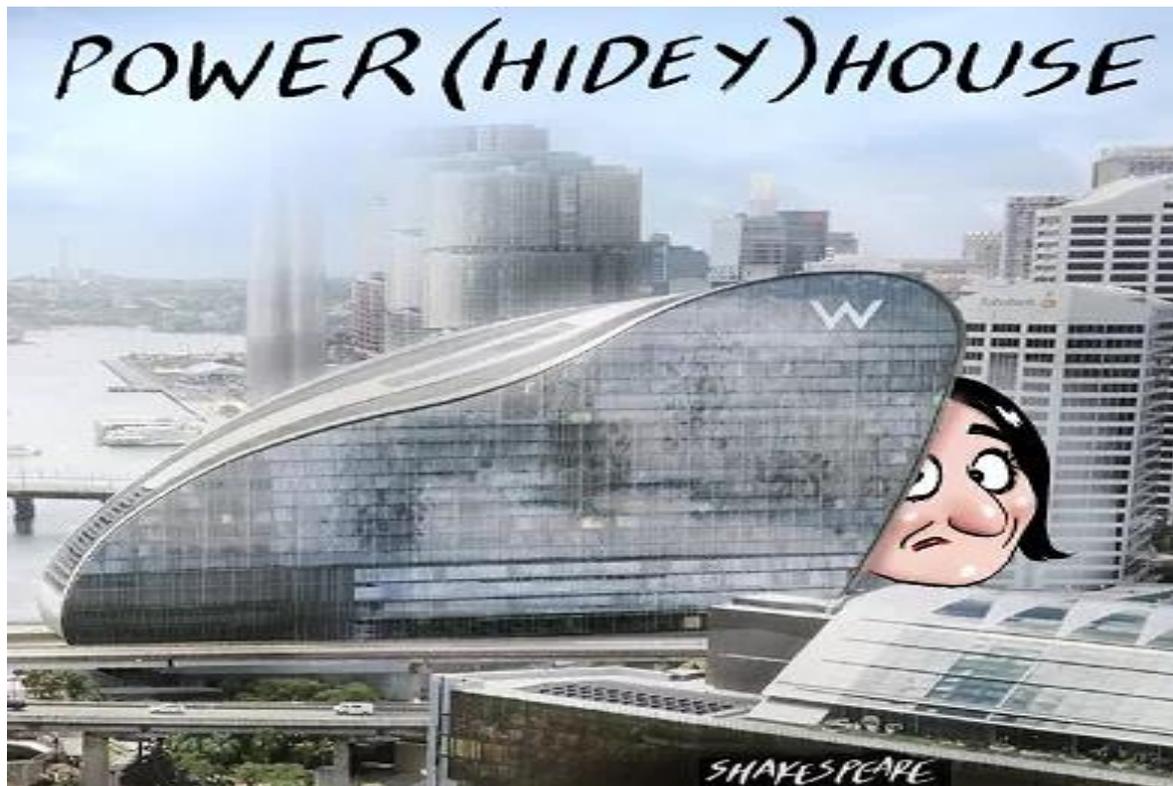


Illustration: John Shakespeare

It is apparent that demolition of the museum and sale of the valuable land is the prime object of this state government ("Demolition' required to move exhibits", June 14). In fact, sale of all NSW assets seems to be an obsession of both state and federal Liberal parties.

With a collection of more than 500,000 items, and only 6000 on exhibit at any time, every city in the state could assist by having their own local museum.

How much could we save by leaving it right where it is and spending the proposed money on new satellite museums?

Michael Stephen Emmett, Umina Beach

I shook my head in disbelief about the \$65.7 million plus cost of moving the large, precious objects from their purpose-built home at the Powerhouse Museum to a new location at Parramatta, thinking of the old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". What a waste of taxpayers' money.

In March 2016, then premier Mike Baird said that the new museum in Parramatta could be "our answer to the Smithsonian". However, the Smithsonian in Washington DC. is not one, but 19 museums including the two campuses of the fabulous National Air and Space Museum.

So why can't our beloved Powerhouse Museum have two campuses, avoiding the need to move Locomotive No. 1, the Catalina flying boat and the other large objects?

Dick Pollitt, Mosman

Why can't this government abandon Baird's grand design and restore some sanity to what is really needed for Parramatta.

Garry Horvai, Pennant Hills

The destruction of the Powerhouse Museum is an act of cultural vandalism without comparison in the modern world. Rather than extend the collection over two iconic sites as has been done in London with the Tate and Tate Modern, or in the USA over several sites with the Smithsonian Institute, the NSW government has opted for ongoing debasement of the state's cultural, historical and environmental heritage.

What a soulless, vapid city politicians are creating. The old joke about a bridge and an opera house for sale is no longer funny. I expect to see them listed in Domain any day now.

Marie-Louise Dreux, Petersham

After all of the expense of the Darling Harbour revamp, the added attraction of a world class museum within easy walking distance of the hotels and the revamped area would make the museum a cash cow.

Does the government think tourists are going to get on a train or ferry out to Parramatta when the city is the centre of tourism?

Robin Humphrey, Springwood

If Gladys Berejiklian is confident that the electorate agrees with the rebuilding of the stadiums and the moving of the Powerhouse Museum, she should put both proposals on hold until after the next election.

This would allow all people to decide on the future of these major issues, something they are currently denied.

Tony Re, Georges Hall

The papers the government released reveal what we always knew about the proposed move of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta: it was never feasible.

Oh well, all is not lost: I'm pitching the storyline to the producers of *Utopia*.

Irma Havlicek, Umina Beach