

16 July 2020

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Business NSW response to Powerhouse Parramatta Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Powerhouse Parramatta Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Business NSW supports the proposal outlined in the EIS to develop Powerhouse Parramatta and bring a cultural institution of state-wide significance to the people of western Sydney.

The benefits from the Powerhouse Parramatta will be significant. The proposal will create more than 4,000 direct and indirect jobs at a time when job creation is of paramount importance to our national economy. The project is expected to generate around 1,100 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs during construction, 2,430 FTE indirect jobs over the development period and between 300 to 400 FTE direct jobs once the museum is completed.¹

Despite 10 per cent of Australians, or around a third of the NSW population, living in Western Sydney, the area is poorly served by cultural institutions. Western Sydney attracts only 1 per cent of the Commonwealth Government's funding for arts programs, and only 5.5 per cent of the NSW Government's cultural arts, heritage and events funding. Approval for the Powerhouse Parramatta will be a major step towards redressing this imbalance, making cultural infrastructure much more accessible to the growing western Sydney population.²

Business NSW welcomes the proposal's vision to reunify the Parramatta CBD with its waterfront by creating an exceptional open space connecting the city to the river. The proposal's design also takes advantage of the area's major transport developments including Metro West, Parramatta Light Rail and the recently upgraded Parramatta ferry wharf.

Central to Powerhouse Parramatta's success will be ensuring it is attractive and easily accessible to tourists staying across greater Sydney, as well as to residents from western Sydney. It's promising that the timing of western Sydney's transport development projects and the plans for integrating these projects into the local streetscape will help to ensure transport links are in place when the museum opens to the public.

¹ 34-54 & 30B Phillip Street and 338 Church Street, *Parramatta Environmental Impact Statement*; 2020. P. 116

² <https://www2.deloitte.com/au/en/pages/economics/articles/building-westernsydney-cultural-arts-economy.html>

Formerly NSW Business Chamber, Business NSW is the peak policy and advocacy body which has been representing businesses in NSW since 1826. Business NSW is one of Australia's largest business support groups with a direct membership of 20,000 businesses. Business NSW works with government, industry groups, as well as business and community leaders to provide a voice for our members. Operating throughout a network in metropolitan and regional NSW, Business NSW represents the needs of business at a local, state and federal level.

Further, with more than one million visitors forecast to visit the new museum in its first year, the proposal has the potential to bring the world to Parramatta. Local businesses and the Parramatta city economy will benefit from the extra numbers of people visiting the area.

Business NSW looks forward to seeing the vision for Powerhouse Parramatta become a reality for the benefit of businesses and the people of western Sydney.

If you have any questions about this submission or would like to discuss in more detail, please feel free to contact me at Simon.Moore@businessnsw.com.

Yours sincerely

Simon Moore
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