



**Don Harwin**  
Minister for Resources  
Minister for Energy and Utilities  
Minister for the Arts

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **POWERHOUSE ARCHITECT SEARCH BEGINS**

The search is on for world-leading architects to design a Powerhouse Precinct at Parramatta encompassing an iconic new museum, public space and pedestrian bridge, Minister for the Arts Don Harwin announced today.

The international design competition is the next major step in the Powerhouse Museum's move to the banks of the Parramatta River.

Focused on excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences and with 18,000 sqm of exhibition and public spaces, the new museum represents a major investment in Western Sydney by the NSW Government.

"I am delighted to open this competition fulfilling our promise to the people of Western Sydney to deliver a major cultural institution they can be proud of," Mr Harwin said.

"While Labor announced vague plans to build a much smaller 'institution' with no collection or operational budget – this Government is getting on with designing and building a museum that will be the envy of the world here in Parramatta.

"Western Sydney deserves nothing but the best and that's what we are going to build in Parramatta. "Labor has always been opposed to giving Western Sydney its own museum, and has only committed to a second rate white elephant.

"Only a Liberal & Nationals Government will bring the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta.

The new museum will showcase the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences' collection, developed over the last 135 years, and accommodate Australia's largest and most advanced planetarium as well as state-of-the-art galleries to present international exhibitions and museum displays.

With more education and learning spaces than Ultimo, the museum will make better use of digital platforms and create significant education and employment pathways for young people into careers across technology, science and arts and culture.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a purpose-built Powerhouse Precinct at Parramatta that will welcome people from across the world and NSW. Around 1,000 people have already registered their interest for this project.

Minister Harwin encouraged local and international architects to enter the competition.

“We are looking for the best designers from across NSW, Australia and internationally to create this new cultural landmark in Parramatta.

“The competition process has the endorsement of the Australian Institute of Architects and we are extremely excited to confirm that Australian entrepreneur Naomi Milgrom AO will chair our highly-credentialed jury with Lisa Havilah, Wendy Lewin and David Gianotten confirmed as members to date,” he said.

Designs produced by shortlisted teams will be on public display later this year.

**Stage One Expressions of Interest are now open and close at 22:00 AEDT Monday 18 March 2019.** For more information, guidelines and applications, visit the competition [website](#).

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