

Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal - Powerhouse Museum Heritage Item Amendment - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 Amendment

File No: X098649

Summary

This report proposes the public exhibition of Planning Proposal - Powerhouse Museum Heritage Item Amendment, which proposes to expand the Powerhouse Museum's existing heritage listing in Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 to ensure its significance is adequately recognised and managed into the future.

This report recommends that Council approve the proposal and seek a gateway determination from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure which will enable the City to place the amendment on public exhibition.

Council and the Central Sydney Planning Committee considered an identical recommendation in December 2024 but resolved to defer consideration of the proposal to enable a review of the purpose and whether any additional benefit is gained from the local listing against the recently expanded State heritage listing (see Attachments A and B).

The City has now completed its review. The general benefits of having a local and State heritage listing that are aligned include a consistency in approach across both listings, and that the site's local significance is appropriately recognised in line with community expectation and Council's responsibility to conserve the environmental heritage of the City of Sydney. The site-specific benefits of having a local heritage listing are that, subject to meeting all relevant criteria including satisfaction of conservation management plans, will enable the locally listed heritage site to be eligible for an award of Heritage Floor Space, which the Powerhouse Museum has expressed an interest in exploring. Without the expanded local heritage listing any application of Heritage Floor Space will be limited.

The Powerhouse Ultimo Revitalisation State Significant Development was approved by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces on 24 March 2025. The City's draft Inventory Sheet will be updated to reference this approval, consistent with the existing expanded State heritage listing.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the 9 December 2024 report to the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the 16 December 2024 Resolution of Council as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve the Planning Proposal - Powerhouse Museum Heritage Item Amendment, shown at Attachment C to the subject report, for submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure with a request for a gateway determination;
- (D) Council approve the Planning Proposal - Powerhouse Museum Heritage Item Amendment as shown at Attachment C to the subject report for public authority consultation and public exhibition in accordance with any conditions imposed under the gateway determination;
- (E) Council seek authority from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to exercise the delegation of all the functions under section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to make the local environmental plan and to put into effect the Planning Proposal - Powerhouse Museum Heritage Item Amendment; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor variations to the Planning Proposal - Powerhouse Museum Heritage Item Amendment to correct any drafting errors or to ensure consistency with the gateway determination.

Attachments

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| Attachment A. | 9 December 2024 Report to the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee |
| Attachment B. | 16 December 2024 Resolution of Council |
| Attachment C. | Planning Proposal - Powerhouse Museum Heritage Item Amendment |
| Attachment D. | Powerhouse Museum Heritage Assessment Report (Lovell Chen) |
| Attachment E. | Draft Inventory Sheet - Powerhouse Museum and Interiors |

Background

1. This report proposes the public exhibition of Planning Proposal - Powerhouse Museum Heritage Item Amendment, which proposes to expand the Powerhouse Museum's existing heritage listing in Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 to ensure its significance is adequately recognised and managed into the future.
2. This report recommends that Council approve the proposal and seek a gateway determination from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure which will enable the City to place the amendment on public exhibition.
3. Council and the Central Sydney Planning Committee considered an identical recommendation in December 2024 but resolved to defer consideration of the proposal to enable a review of the purpose and whether any additional benefit is gained from the local listing against the recently expanded State heritage listing (see Attachment A and B).
4. The City has now completed its review. The general benefits of having a local and State heritage listing that are aligned include a consistency in approach across both listings, and that the sites local significance is appropriately recognised in line with community expectation and Council's responsibility to conserve the environmental heritage of the City of Sydney. The site-specific benefits of having a local heritage listing are that, subject to meeting all relevant criteria including satisfaction of conservation management plans, it will enable the locally listed site to be eligible for an award of Heritage Floor Space, which the Powerhouse Museum has expressed an interest in exploring. Without the expanded local heritage listing any application of Heritage Floor Space will be limited.
5. The Powerhouse Ultimo Revitalisation State Significant Development was approved by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces on 24 March 2025. The City's draft Inventory Sheet will be updated to reference this approval, consistent with the existing expanded State heritage listing.
6. Refer to the 9 December 2024 report to the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee as shown at Attachment A for the relevant details.

GRAHAM JAHN AM

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