

**POWERHOUSE ULTIMO RENEWAL  
PROJECT OVERVIEW**

FEBRUARY 2023





# Acknowledgement of Country

Infrastructure NSW and the Powerhouse pay respect to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which Powerhouse Ultimo stands.

We recognise their continuous connection to this place. We honour the clans, nations, families that have always been connected to this Site, and respect the diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that now call this place home. We recognise Aboriginal connections to this place as a cultural continuum – resilient, resistant, and responsive to emerging and receding industries. This has always been a place of story, ceremony and gathering, it is our responsibility that this continues to be a place for the broader community and reflects their stories.

An Acknowledgement of Country is a responsibility, behaviour, and action. The Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal is intended to be an Acknowledgement of Country in practice.

# The Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal will reinvigorate one of Australia's most revered museums

It will deliver new and refurbished exhibition spaces and expanded public domain, connecting Powerhouse Ultimo to the Sydney CBD, The Goods Line and adjacent cultural precincts.

The renewed Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo will continue to deliver an applied sciences and applied arts program, presenting exhibitions that showcase the Powerhouse collection, international exclusive exhibitions, and programs that support the applied arts, applied sciences and creative industries.

Powerhouse Ultimo will be a precinct that actively contributes to the night-time and visitor economies through the delivery of a world-class museum.

The winning design was selected in December 2022, following a national Design Competition. Detailed planning for this design is now underway.

**This factsheet provides a project overview of the Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal.**





## Project background

The Powerhouse is one of Australia's oldest and most important cultural institutions. It is Australia's only museum of applied arts and applied sciences with an exceptional collection of approximately 500,000 objects.

To achieve a world-class standard, the Powerhouse is undertaking significant renewal through the creation of Powerhouse Parramatta, expansion of Powerhouse Castle Hill, the digitisation of Powerhouse Collection, and the renewal of Powerhouse Ultimo.





# Project objectives

Key objectives of the project include:

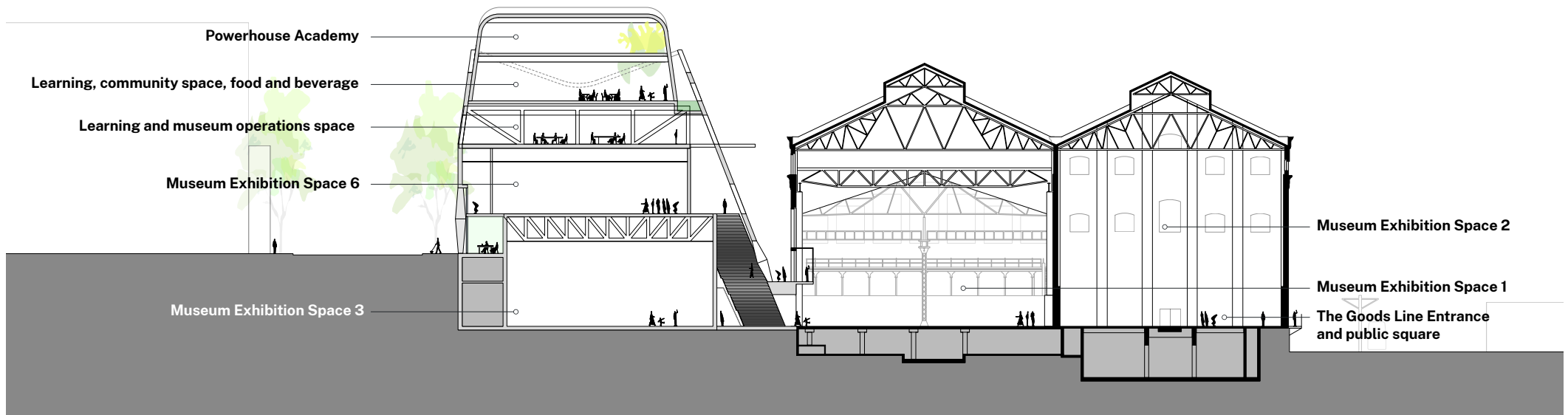
- Deliver an international standard museum that is complementary to Powerhouse Parramatta, Powerhouse Castle Hill, and Sydney Observatory.
- Enable and support the development of the NSW creative industries and improve productivity through sustainable, flexible, and affordable infrastructure that supports colocation and collaboration.
- Provide new and refurbished international standard spaces for museum exhibitions, programs, operations and associated industry and creative uses.
- Integrate a vibrant creative industries precinct that connects with its surrounds and responds to the changing urban environment.
- Deliver a precinct that contributes to the NSW visitor and night-time economies.
- Provide a connected and integrated interface with surrounding precinct developments, including The Goods Line, Darling Square and Tech Central.





# Project features

- Six museum exhibition spaces that will present a changing applied arts and applied sciences program featuring the Powerhouse Collection
- Exhibition spaces will include existing heritage spaces (Boiler House and Turbine Hall) and new museum exhibition spaces
- A new international standard exhibition space for major exhibitions, supporting the NSW visitor economy
- Approximately 1,500sqm of learning and community space
- A 1,000 sqm auditorium for the presentation of Powerhouse education programs
- 5,000 sqm of public domain for museum programming, education, community use and civic events
- New rooftop spaces above the existing Switch House and new building fronting Harris Street for a range of public events and programming
- Reorientation of the Powerhouse entrance to The Goods Line
- Activated frontage to Harris Street with the Powerhouse Library and Archive, and Creative Industries tenancies
- Powerhouse Academy providing on site accommodation for regional NSW students to participate in immersive learning programs
- The design centralises the circulation to create a cohesive museum experience
- 2,000 sqm of creative industries space
- Retail, food and beverage spaces.





# Project timeline and next steps

Project planning started in 2020 when the NSW Government announced that Powerhouse Ultimo would be retained.

The project timeline is subject to planning approvals, including SSSDA assessment and determination by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

## 2020

- Jul** ● NSW Government announced that Powerhouse Ultimo would be retained
- Sep** ● Community consultation takes place and business case prepared

## 2022

- Mar** ● Community consultation for the draft Conservation Management Plan takes place
- Jun** ● A Concept State Significant Development Application was submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment
- Jun/Jul** ● Public Exhibition of the Concept State Significant Development Application
- Jul** ● Design competition launched
- Sep** ● Five teams are shortlisted in the design completion
- Dec** ● Winner of the design competition selected and details shared with the community

## 2023

- Feb** ● Request Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for Detailed State Significant Development Application
- Feb/Mar** ● Community consultation, detailed design development and project planning currently underway **WE ARE HERE**
- State Significant Development Application (including the Environmental Impact Statement) is lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment
- Public Exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement
- Procurement of contractor starts
- Planning process continues including a Response to Submissions Report

\* Timing is subject to the planning, design and procurement processes.



