

8 March 2017

Ms Lynn Race  
Council Officer Assistant  
Committees  
Legislative Council  
Parliament of New South Wales

Dear Lynn,

**RE: GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4**

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2017 enclosing the transcript recording my statements and answers given at the abovementioned committee hearing held on 17 February 2017.

I am pleased to advise that I have no changes or corrections to make to the transcript.

With respect to the questions on notice, my answers are provided below:

Item 1.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** But that is not part of the business case that is going before Cabinet. That is not part of the preliminary business case. That is a separate piece of work. How are you asserting that that is Cabinet in confidence?

**Mr ROOT:** As I said, I have been informed by our client that that is Cabinet in confidence.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Who is your client?

**Mr ROOT:** The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** And who from the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences said that that piece of work is Cabinet in confidence.

**Mr ROOT:** I do not remember the name of the individual who signed the letter but it was a representative from the museum.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Could you provide us with a copy of that letter?

**Mr ROOT:** I do not have it with me.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Could you provide it on notice?

**Mr ROOT:** Yes. I would be happy to provide it on notice.

Copy of relevant email from Larissa Kotlaroff dated 14 February 2017 is attached.

Item 2.

**Mr ROOT:** We were provided with a list of icon artefacts from the museum that would definitely be on display at the Parramatta site. Yes.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Apart from the Boulton and Watt steam engine, what other iconic items were going to be on display?

**Mr ROOT:** I do not remember the detail. The Catalina was one of those. Sorry. I do not recall any of the other details.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** If possible, could you provide us with that list on notice? Because obviously the public have enormous affinity with those iconic objects. If you could provide us with that list on notice we would appreciate it.

**Mr ROOT:** I will need to take advice on that. My understanding is that information is captured by Cabinet in confidence, but I will take it on notice.

The list referred to is contained within a report prepared by us that forms an appendix to the Final Business Case. I am informed that all of the reports prepared by us in relation to this matter are Cabinet-in-Confidence. I have sought and received independent legal advice that such documents are considered a subject of public interest immunity and are therefore privileged.

Item 3.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Mr Root, you mentioned that you did some work involving moving the collection to Castle Hill and to Parramatta. What size of the collection as part of that work will go to Castle Hill and what will go to Parramatta?

**Mr ROOT:** I am sorry. I do not remember the details. They are in our report. I am quite happy to take that on notice.

For the purposes of the Collections Logistics Report (that forms an appendix to the Final Business Case), informed assumptions were made in consultation with MAAS regarding the nature and proportion of objects going to Parramatta and what will be stored at Castle Hill. I am informed that all of the reports prepared by us in relation to this matter are Cabinet-in-Confidence. I have sought and received independent legal advice that such documents are considered a subject of public interest immunity and are therefore privileged.

Item 4.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I would like to know what percentage of the collection will go to Parramatta and what percentage will go to Castle Hill. You referred earlier to iconic artefacts that will make the trip from Ultimo to Parramatta. You mentioned the Catalinas. What other iconic artefacts are on the list?

**Mr ROOT:** As I said earlier, I do not remember those details. I have taken that on notice.

Refer to response under Item 2.

Item 5.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I am asking a question. Let me finish my question.

**Mr ROOT:** Yes, I have.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Are there any iconic artefacts that are not making the journey to Parramatta?

**Mr ROOT:** I do not know the answer to that. I am happy to take it on notice.

Refer to response under Item 2.

Item 6.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Do you know what the cost of the relocation was for the Melbourne Museum?

**Mr ROOT:** I do not recall that. I could take that on notice.

I have not been able to find this information in our records and am therefore unable to provide it.  
Item 7.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** A normal proportion is that the public non-exhibition space is normally about one part in three or one part in four of the floor space, and those are the kinds of constraints you work on. Is that right?

**Mr ROOT:** It varies greatly from museum to museum. It depends upon the nature of the collection.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** With the collection of the Powerhouse, were those the kinds of ratios you were working with—one to three to one to four for the public non-exhibition space?

**Mr ROOT:** I cannot answer that question right now. I am happy to take it on notice.

Based on my previous experience in museum developments the proportion of public circulation space to exhibition floor space (all of which is front of house and excludes external courtyard or plaza spaces) is in the order of 1 to 4.

Item 8.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** I am just going off the Powerhouse's website. It says that the space for the museum is 20,000 square metres. Would that be about right?

**Mr ROOT:** My recollection, and it is only a recollection and it is a 30-year-old recollection, is that we created about 12,000 square metres of front-of-house space when we built that museum.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** I have just found the reference. "How big is the Powerhouse? Approximately 20,000 square metres of public space, which is the equivalent of three international competitions soccer fields."

**Mr ROOT:** I dare say that is including external public space, plazas and those sorts of things, not just exhibition space.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Please take that on notice.

**Mr ROOT:** Of course.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** The advice I have received is that would ordinarily equate to about 14,000 to 15,000 square metres of exhibition space, because of the standard ratios. You might be able to shed some light on that on notice.

I take it that this question is referring to the existing Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo. Based on the information I have to hand, that museum has some 12,000m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space with a further 10,000m<sup>2</sup> (approximate) of support, learning and commercial spaces.

Yours sincerely

Peter Root  
Managing Director

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**From:** Larissa Kotlaroff  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 February 2017 4:10 PM  
**To:** Peter Root  
**Cc:** Dolla Merrillees; Michael Parry; Jesse Price  
**Subject:** Re: invitation to attend the General Purpose Standing Committee No 4's inquiry into museums and galleries on 17 February 2017

Dear Peter

We have sought advice through Justice Services, Arts & Culture, Department of Justice about the invitation you have received to attend the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4's inquiry into museums and galleries on 17 February 2017 following your verbal enquiries to MAAS.

Witnesses are invited to appear before committees in the first instance. You may choose to decline this invite however the committee may issue a summons for your compulsory attendance.

We have also been advised by Justice Services, Arts & Culture, Department of Justice that the contents of the Preliminary Business Case (including any working papers), Final Business Case and Site Selection are Cabinet-in-Confidence.

By way of background, a claim of privilege may be made in instances where an answer to a question posed by the Committee is privileged (for example, legal professional privilege, self-incrimination privilege and public interest immunity – which applies to cabinet documents) or if the question falls outside of the Committee's terms of reference.

These may be taken into account by the Committee but a witness may still be compelled to answer. If a witness has concerns about answering such questions and is in doubt, the witness may request that the question be taken on notice for the purpose of obtaining legal advice when preparing a response.

The above information is provided to you as general information only and we recommend you seek your own legal advice regarding attending the Inquiry and giving evidence on 17 February 2017.

Kind regards  
Larissa Kotlaroff



Larissa Kotlaroff  
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