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MAAS Chief Executive announced

Lisa Havilah has been announced as the incoming Chief Executive of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS).

The announcement was made on the bank of the Parramatta River today by NSW Minister for the Arts Don Harwin.

Ms Havilah will take up the position of Chief Executive on 7 January 2019 to lead MAAS into its next exciting chapter, with planning for the new museum in Parramatta.

Since 2011 Ms Havilah has been the Director of Carriageworks. Under her direction Carriageworks has achieved record growth in visitation and become synonymous with Sydney contemporary art performances, exhibitions and events. Prior to Carriageworks Ms Havilah led Campbelltown Arts Centre, bringing an understanding of Western Sydney arts and culture to her role at MAAS.

"Lisa Havilah has been a champion of NSW cultural life for many years, most recently steering the transformation of Carriageworks into the cultural hub it is today," said President of the MAAS Board of Trustees, Professor Barney Glover.

"Under Lisa's helm MAAS will deliver a bold new Museum that extends beyond traditional exhibition spaces to deliver world-class programming and experiences that will engage and excite both existing and new MAAS audiences for generations to come. The MAAS Trust is delighted to welcome Lisa and is certain she will lead the MAAS Parramatta development with her signature passion for the cultural sector and Western Sydney," said Professor Glover.

Lisa Havilah said "I am honoured to join MAAS at this important stage of the museum's transformation and look forward to delivering great outcomes for the communities of NSW. I am proud of the extraordinary things that have been achieved with the Board and staff of Carriageworks over the past eight years which has seen it become the fastest growing cultural precinct in Australia."

NSW Minister for the Arts Don Harwin says Ms Havilah is exceptionally well equipped to guide the future of MAAS during this transformational period.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Lisa to this crucial role. There is no doubt her wealth of experience puts her in a class of her own. MAAS's future, in particular the move of the Powerhouse Museum requires expert governance – I have total confidence Lisa is the person for the job," said Mr Harwin.

"With eight years at Carriageworks, six years of experience as Director of Campbelltown Arts Centre and six years at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Lisa understands Western Sydney and the vibrant arts and culture sector that is growing daily in the West.

MAAS is Australia's premier museum of applied arts and sciences. The Museum is custodian to of over 500,000 objects that showcase human innovation and Australian social history.

Established in 1879, MAAS is one of Australia's oldest cultural institutions. The next chapter at MAAS will embody the Museum's mission to be a catalyst for creative expression and curious minds, as it develops an iconic new museum in Parramatta. The NSW government has committed \$645 million to the realisation of this important cultural infrastructure project, due for completion in 2023.

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About the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. Powerhouse Museum, alongside Sydney Observatory and Museums Discovery Centre, is part of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Australia's contemporary museum for excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences. MAAS has a vast and diverse collection of over 500,000 objects.