

**INQUIRY INTO PERFORMANCE OF THE NSW  
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 12/08/2014

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Partially Confidential

**12 August 2014**

The Hon Robert Brown MLC  
Chair, General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 Legislative Council  
NSW Parliament, Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

cc: Jamie Parker MP, Member for Balmain

Dear Chair

RE: Submission to Inquiry into the performance of the NSW Environmental Protection Authority

Further to 1. (b) (v) of the Inquiry's terms of reference, I would like to make the following comments about the regulation of cruise passenger ships at the White Bay Cruise Terminal at Balmain:

We live on the Balmain, which is quite close to the terminal. Quite simply, since the cruise ship opened, the noise and air pollution has been constant. The noise pollution ranges from announcements being made over speakers / loud hailer, to blast horns to generators running. A couple of months ago, the World was docked directly down from our house for almost a week, and noise was constant during this time. Another particularly frustrating day was when one of the Carnival cruises sounded its blast horn constantly for about 20 minutes during the middle of the day. I have two small children who sleep during the day, so this was very frustrating. The air pollution ranges from billowing pollution coming from the ships, unsightly smells in the air and I also understand respiratory illnesses have increased.

I have contacted the Sydney Ports a number of times to complain about pollution. I have received varying responses, from 'the generators are running through the night as shipping is not a 9-5 industry' to 'we cannot determine what the noise is'. I have asked Sydney Ports - what can be done to prevent this noise pollution? The answer was that it was very hard for the ships to communicate the guidelines regarding noise restrictions to all ship employees as there are so many different people working over so many shifts, and its hard to communicate with them all. That response prompted the question of what are the consequences for the cruise ship companies who ignore the noise restrictions, and I was informed that there was no applicable legislation or fines. Frankly, the excuse 'it's hard to communicate the noise restrictions to all employees' sounds a bit like 'the dog ate my homework'.

I have contacted the EPA to make complaints as well. In response, I have received a letter stating that pollution levels are monitored and are within acceptable levels.

I welcome the inquiry into the performance of the EPA regarding the cruise ship terminal, and will be very interested to hear the outcome.

Should you need to contact me for further information, please do not hesitate to on

Kind regards,