

**Submission  
No 126**

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

**Name:** Ms Nazli Munir

**Date received:** 29/08/2014

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

29 August 2014

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 have lived in and are current residents of Bradford St for over 35 years and have no objections to living in a working port. However, we were not prepared for the level of intrusion that the White Bay Cruise Terminal has inflicted on our lives. We would like to highlight the following issues:

- Air and Noise Pollution;
- Lack of Complaint Procedures.

**AIR POLLUTION**

Shortly after the Cruise Terminal became operational we have been impacted by the air pollution emitted by some Cruise ships while they are in port. As Bradford St is located parallel and a few hundred metres west of the Terminal, we and the residents in our street and the local area are affected by the air pollution emitted while Cruise ships are in port.

In particular since the operation of the Terminal Andrew, from mid 2013, has started suffering from what is now a chronic ongoing throat and upper respiratory infection, that is exacerbated on dates that some cruise ships are in port and the prevailing winds blow the pollution across our house and street. This has required on-going medical examinations, visits to GPs and specialists, and a variety of treatments. Also as Nazli has, since May 2014, started to work mostly from home, she has also started to suffer from increased throat and respiratory infections.

The health impacts of air pollution allowed to be emitted by visiting Cruise ships is a **major concern to us**, other families in our street and the local area overlooking the White Bay Terminal.

**NOISE POLLUTION**

The level of noise pollution from the Terminal when cruise ships are berthed on occasions is on occasions - at a level that is unacceptable in a built up area. We both now work from home and are subjected to:

- the vibrations and a loud low humming noise from the Cruise ship generators that continue during the day and night each a cruise ship is in port at the White Bay Terminal;
- on occasions when two cruise ships are in port or a ship is berthed at White Bay No. 4 - and they run their generators - the level of noise increases dramatically.

On these occasions we have had vibrations and noise from the ship's engines starting from their arrival at around 10.30 pm, all through the night until the ship departs the next afternoon - making it impossible to get away from the noise of the hum of the generator engines, disturbing our sleep, and making it uncomfortable to stay in our home. There is a need for the Port Authority to act on these occasions - when ships are clearly in breach of Noise Pollution Regulations.

#### LACK OF PORT BASED ELECTRICITY POWER FOR CRUISE SHIPS

Both the air and noise pollution issues arise from the previous government's decision to open a port WITHOUT the proper electricity infrastructure to enable Cruise ships to draw on port based power while they are in port.

#### LACK OF COMPLAINTS SYSTEM

Also notable is the lack of an adequate available complaints system to handle residents concerns with the operation of The White Bay Terminal. In previous years, the State's Port Authority provided a 24 hour hotline where we could call at any time to complain if the noise levels from the container terminal were too overpowering. In earlier years, we used to be able to call the port directly and speak to someone in authority to report issues of concern related to port operations. Our concerns were always treated with respect, we were heard and where possible, action was taken to alleviate our issues.

However, the Ports Authority now only has an automated message operating to take up residents concerns. As a result, there is no one we can turn to when the noise or air pollution from a ship's generator and engines is impacting on us in our home

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

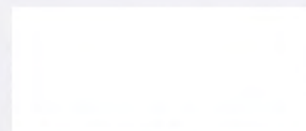
We strongly suggest that this inquiry consider recommending:

- as a priority the installation of shore based power - an electricity sub-station to service this new piece of harbour infrastructure - the White Bay Terminal.
- set up a 24 hour hotline - staffed by a person who is authorised to act on noise and pollution complaints
- establish as a requirement the mandatory monitoring of the fine particle and sulphur pollution emitted by Cruise ships while they are in port.

Yours sincerely,



Nazli Munir



Andrew Chodkiewicz