

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

Name: Ms Sherryl Mula

Date received: 28/08/2014

Sherryl Mula

Hon Robert Brown MLC

Chair General Purpose Standing Committee Legislative Council NSW Parliament Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Submission Inquiry into the performance of the 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 White Bay Terminal at Balmain.

I moved to Balmain 11 years ago to enjoy the life offered in a village close to the city, and I have enjoyed all that this life offers. Being an active person my daily walks take me all over the peninsula and in the summer because of the location of my apartment I was able to sleep with the windows open and enjoy the sea breeze.

The difference in the air quality on the days the cruise ships are in port is profound. The 'heavy air' full of pollutants simply makes breathing difficult. I wake in the night hearing the rumbling of the engines as they pump their cocktail of poison into the air. Walking in the mornings has become dependent upon whether there is a ship at White Bay or not. It is just disgusting that I am forced to live a lifestyle curtailed by the decisions made by politicians and the EPA, with absolutely no consultation or consideration of the effects on not only the population of the peninsula, but Sydney as a whole.

Have any of these decision makers actually taken the time to walk around the area where these ships are berthed? The brightness of the lights, the sounds of revelry from the passengers and the endless, endless announcements over the public address system. There seems to be nothing to restrict either the ships and their filthy fuel or the 'open for business 24 hours' mentality of the cruise ships. Hardly conducive to a quiet, restful life in a beautiful suburb where we paid the extra dollars for the privilege of living here.

I have two young grandsons whose overnight visits have been severely curtailed in the 'cruise months' as I feel it is irresponsible of me to have them stay, when the poor air quality and pollutants therein will cause irreversible damage to their health.

My daughter had settled into an apartment near White Bay and had been very happy there but the loss of privacy, noise and pollution led to her leaving the suburb.

On the contrary to what the current Leichhardt Mayor stated at a public meeting, there has been no flow-on effect for the benefits the cruise ships would bring to Balmain and the many empty shops reflect this. Passengers eat on board, are transported out of the area to other attractions and we just remain with the pollution.

All this has gone too far for a country where we fuss about nothing and we are unable to manage important issues like this. I am angry because of the vested interests of a few individuals obviously is having great consequence on the well being and health of an entire community.

And the usual question remains for the tax payer; who is going to pay the price in the long term?

Sincerely
Sherryl Mula