

Submission
No 135

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 29/08/2014

Partially Confidential

The Director
 General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
 Parliament House
 Macquarie St
 Sydney NSW 2000

29 August 2014

Re: Submission to General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 - Inquiry into the Performance of the NSW Environmental Protection Authority specifically, Regulation of Cruise passenger ships at White Bay Cruise Terminal Balmain

Background

We are a young family residing at _____ Balmain, directly opposite the White Bay Cruise Terminal subject to this Legislative Council Inquiry. We live less than 120m from berthing cruise ships. We raise the following issues requiring resolution and accountability via this Inquiry.

Fact	Actual
<p>Number of Ships Sydney Ports advised local community that annually we could expect between 60-70 cruise ships per annum</p>	<p>First year of operation approximately 130 ships have berthed at WBCT No.5, Including multiple berthing. Now industry is proposing more than 170 ships per annum at WBCT</p>
<p>Temporary Cruise Facility to relocate facility to allow the development at Barangaroo Sydney Ports advised local community that this was a temporary facility.</p>	<p>Now proposed a long term facility, with no new (or complimentary) facility proposed as part of the Barangaroo Central or South redevelopment</p>
<p>Exceedence of Approved Noise Levels in Operating Licence states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 10pm and 7am 49dB • 7am to 6pm 56dB • 6pm to 10pm 54dB 	<p>No ship has met these operating Noise licence limits. Typically we record noise levels ranging between 65dB as much as 75dB (including during overnight stays).</p> <p>The ship that was most non-compliant was Costa Romantica which berthed for 3 days and 2 nights which emitted noise levels almost 2 x permissible limits as outlined in Licence.</p> <p>This cannot be tolerated by the local community or considered acceptable by the regulators</p>
<p>Unacceptable Vibration arising from continuous powering of ships</p>	<p>A 'buffer' of less than 120m between residential community and cruise industry use, we are subjected to vibration of windows and doors of our Heritage properties whenever a ship is berthed – the worst being during overnight stays. This is a major amenity issue for the local residents.</p>
<p>Unacceptable Air Emissions – exceedence of acceptable levels for the protection of Human Health</p>	<p>This is a major Risk to Human Health from air pollution including carcinogenic compounds. This cannot be tolerated by the local community or considered acceptable by the regulators.</p>
<p>Unacceptable Odour – Sulphur and brown smoke</p>	<p>This is a major aesthetic issue for the community, preventing us from opening doors, windows or using our outdoor space.</p>

Concluding Remarks

We do not oppose the use of the land as the 'temporary' cruise ship terminal. It has been an improvement to the previous redundant use of prime foreshore land, but the noise and air pollution **MUST STOP**.

In our opinion, for Sydney Ports to meet their operating obligations and current EPA guidelines **shore power** must be installed, and there must be rigour in the control and regulation of environmental performance for ships that berth, now and into the future, at WBCT.

Regards