

**Submission
No 182**

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

Name: Mr David Finlay

Date received: 1/09/2014

David Finlay

August 28, 2014

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

Dear Madam/ Sir

Regulation of Cruise Ships at White Bay

Health and Environmental Impacts

I am writing to raise my very strong concerns regarding the current regulation of cruise ships at White Bay. I am particularly concerned about the health and environmental impacts of the current arrangements.

As a resident of Balmain who overlooks the cruise berthing facilities, my family and I are impacted on a daily basis from the emissions from the cruise ships.

My particular concerns are:

1. The cruise terminal is a poor new neighbor for the high density residential community of Balmain. The residential community was in Balmain long before the cruise ship terminal. For instance, my three children play in the front yard of my house that was built around 1880 that now overlooks the cruise terminal. My children attend Balmain Public School that has a line of sight to the cruise terminal, and that school was well established by the 1860's. The cruise terminal arrived somewhat after this, and should be operated on world's best practice and be held to account when it fails to do so.
2. The current regulations relating to the operation of cruise ships at White Bay significantly lag behind other first world countries
3. The emissions from the diesel engines of the cruise ships impact the air quality and the health of residents whilst they are in port. The emissions are carcinogenic and contain dangerous toxins: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter (both PM10 and PM2.5), benzene, toluene and formaldehyde. Further, the sulphur content of the diesel fuel of the ships is up to 35 times higher than allowed in Europe and North America
4. Emissions monitoring is inadequate; and

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5. There are no penalties for breaches of conditions

I would submit to the Committee that at a minimum, ships should not be allowed to operate their engines whilst in port, with onshore power being provided and only ships that can utilise this power being allowed to berth. The ships should be monitored and held to account for breaches of operating conditions that are put in place to protect the health of the residents of Balmain and Sydney. Any breaches of operating conditions should have material consequences for ship's operators.

Yours Sincerely,

David Finlay