

**Submission
No 241**

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

Name: Lyn Fowler & Edward Walker

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28 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 Ship Terminal at Balmain:

Balmain is a residential area with a growing population of young families. There are 5 local schools and a number of child caring facilities so there are many children who live and attend school in the area.

It is therefore of great concern that the government has permitted a polluting industry, that is, cruise ships, into the area without requiring the terminal to provide a shore to ship connection to the Sydney electricity grid. This provision, although expensive to install, is a common requisite for ports overseas and would eliminate the ship generated pollution from the burning of fuel oil for power while the vessels are docked.

It looks as though the health standard for Balmain residents is reverting to the days of living in an environment polluted by coal fired power stations ie White Bay and Balmain, with 24 hour exposure to carcinogenic particles and the associated health risks.

If the government ignores the current situation, this could result in potential liability for the future health problems of residents caused by the exposure to this ongoing source of air pollution.

We ask you to consider making a recommendation that the NSW government reviews the approval given for cruise ships to remain docked at the Balmain terminal and takes urgent action to eliminate pollution by the cruise ships by requiring the construction of a shore to ship power facility and, when constructed to require all berthed vessels to use the facility.

Yours sincerely

Ms Lyn Fowler and Dr Edward Walker