

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

**Name:** Mr Jeremy Child

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Mr Jeremy Child

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

11 August 2014

Dear Chair

**Submission to Inquiry into the performance of the NSW Environmental Protection Authority / White Bay Cruise Terminal**

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 (**the Terminal**) at Balmain.

I reside at \_\_\_\_\_ Balmain, which is in close proximity to the Terminal. I expect you are familiar with the ongoing complaints from residents regarding the air and noise pollution from these ships. My particular concerns are as follows:

*The diesel fumes*

- Our two young sons \_\_\_\_\_ both have asthma. We are concerned of the effect of the fumes from the cruise ships on their asthma.
- More generally, diesel fuels emit a range of harmful particulates. Cars have exhaust systems to remove these particulate emissions, but marine engine exhaust systems do not remove the particulates. There have been various comments on the impact of diesel engine pollution (for example, refer to recent article in The Guardian newspaper, entitled "Diesel engine pollution linked to early deaths and costs NHS billions - Environmental experts warn high percentage of diesel engines in public transport may cause quarter of all air pollution deaths", refer [http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/apr/29/diesel-engine-pollution-premature-deaths-costs-nhs-billions?CMP=ema\\_632](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/apr/29/diesel-engine-pollution-premature-deaths-costs-nhs-billions?CMP=ema_632)
- The pollution is frustrating as it is so concentrated, and local residents are paying for the shipping industry through risks to their health. Further, there is the obvious solution of shore-to-ship power.
- We are aware that certain residents are considering selling and moving out of the area as they find the pollution smell unliveable.

*The EPA's weak response*

- The EPA has been a "toothless tiger" responding to the issue. Their response has basically been that it is not an issue for the EPA, but instead one that involves a range of other government departments (e.g. Department of Health, Planning & Infrastructure). The result has been inaction. Clearly the issue is noise and pollution, so it seems ridiculous that the EPA does not take carriage of the matter.
- I recognise a whole of government response may be necessary, or that the EPA may require advice from other departments (eg. it may look to NSW Health for public health standards), but it should not use this as an excuse for inaction. The EPA should also have the ability to make enforceable recommendations to other departments if environmental conditions are not met.
- The monitoring recommended by the EPA appears to be in part, a case of "lies, damned lies, and statistics". For example, the initial pollution monitoring station was put in place on the top of a cliff face at the end of Adolphus St. Clearly a cliff face would be a point of higher wind, so will not measure where pollution settles. Unsurprisingly, our experience has been the pollution smell is worse when there is no wind, particularly in the mornings.
- Only after repeated lobbying was a second monitoring station was put in at Adolphus St, away from the cliff face. However this station was not in place during some of the worst pollution experiences we experienced. For example, the air pollution on Monday 12 May 2014 was particularly bad, arising from "The World" ship which was in port from 11-16 May, and low wind levels. Interestingly, the pollution was bad both in Balmain, but I also noticed a pronounced smell as I cycled across the Anzac Bridge. At this time however, the second air quality monitoring station temporarily placed in Adolphus St had been removed, so this pollution spike was not recorded.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your review. Please feel free to contact me on \_\_\_\_\_ with any queries.

Yours faithfully,

Jeremy Child