

**Submission
No 251**

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

Name: Ms Gill Hazel

Date received: 22/10/2014

Hi Ryan and Linda,

I live opposite the Housing Commission units on Adolphus St and know most of the residents and they know me, which is great security!

The majority of the units are in poor condition, with little to zero maintenance. Some are abandoned by family, some are 'ok'.

These people are also part of the wider LMC and our local Balmain precinct. They are also mostly ill, and due to poor health and life factors often have compromised mental capacity. They are also part of the community and are very frightened by the cruise ships - the noise and vibrations bouncing around the stairs, the old windows rattling, doors and windows that aren't sealed properly, wide open corridors, cracks in walls, leaks etc. And few with air conditioning. They often haven't the capacity to understand what is happening and are certainly in a powerless situation to better protect themselves, or escape for a couple of hours, or overnight.

They too experience the dreadful emissions and noise that whirls about the property and worse, they are scared and no one is looking after them, as they are mostly dispossessed from family. They have no, nada, zero representation. I tried to speak to the relevant Dept earlier this year, but they offered no resolve and asked that any matter be referred back to the families, from which they are mostly dispossessed. The Housing Department showed a somewhat callous lack of interest and responsibility.

They do not have computers or iphones to communicate in the way that we require today. They are the unheard people of Balmain and they too are suffering, and arguably more than 'us' in our better equipped homes and with our audible voices.

I share 2 poignant stories to illustrate their helplessness. The old Balinese lady on the top RH unit who has very poor health generally but mainly to a severe dental condition that cannot be corrected due to lack of health cover and money, has stopped me in the street and has come to my house to talk about the cruise ships. On several very bad days last year where it was oppressively hot and we had a barrage of ships in over a longer period of time and over consecutive nights, she became very agitated and frightened by the constant and excessive noise. Plus the repugnant odours that she/they cannot escape from due to the appalling structural conditions of the units, general poor /shabby state of each unit and lack care by the Dept and sadly, the family. She has no representation.

There is another one, who, on a very bad day last year where we had a peak complaints - and elderly resident of Stephen St awoke around midnight to the horrendous ship noise, massive fireworks were going off and thud thud of loud music. She thought momentarily she was back in the wartime London with the bombs and sirens going off. It took her awhile to reorientate to Balmain. She has no computer to write complaints and no energy; she has cancer.

So this is some of the unspoken people in our community that have no voice or representation, but are also deeply effected, possibly more effected by their circumstance, by the impacts of the Cruise industry. I would like their presence in the community to be acknowledged

and indirectly represent them by way of this email. I ask that we share this email with the enquiry.

regards, gill