

**Submission
No 149**

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

Name: Ms Gillian Moon

Date received: 1/09/2014

29 August 2014

To the Parliamentary Inquiry,

I live in East Balmain so am not affected by the cruise ships but I visit my elderly parents almost every day, and they live in Adolphus St, fairly close to the cruise ship terminal.

Many times when I have visited them while a cruise ship was in port nearby, I have suffered effects from the fumes in the air. We often take the dogs for a walk and, apart from the smell, the main effect has been watering, smarting and irritation to my eyes. This is unusual for me as I don't get hay fever or any reactions of this kind to normal traffic exhaust. In fact, these are the only times in my life I have ever experienced anything like such a reaction.

What is particularly worrying is that I also get the reaction sitting inside my parents' house with the doors and windows closed, although the reaction is not as strong.

My parents have made their own submission but obviously I am concerned about them, especially as my father gets asthma. It is simply unacceptable that the terminal has been built in an area so close to a high density residential community. On bad days, with the ships smoke stacks the same height as homes, the fumes blow straight down Adolphus St into all the homes and there's no way to stop them.

It is imperative that shore-to-ship power must be provided. We understand that over 100 ports around the world now provide the ability for ships to plug in to the local power grid so that they can switch off their engines stopping dangerous diesel emissions in port. Whilst there was a requirement to allow for shore power at the White Bay Cruise Terminal in the future, there is no requirement to actually provide it and as predicted Sydney Ports are reluctant to embrace shore power at the site.

I am also appalled that there are no penalties for breaches of planning conditions. There is no provision for cruise companies to be penalised for breaches of the regulations that do exist (inadequate as they are). For example, monitoring has shown that the cruise ships have breached noise criteria 75% of the time, yet the only requirement in the planning approval to address such breaches is for more monitoring to be conducted.

I am in full agreement with others living in the affected area that this lack of regulation has already resulted in our community experiencing a range of health symptoms and exposure to serious, known health risks. All of which could easily been avoided if the protective measures which were adopted long ago in the Northern Hemisphere, were implemented here.

Yours sincerely,
Gillian Moon