

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

**Name:** Mr Anthony O'Halloran

**Date received:** 4/08/2014

---

Partially Confidential

**Anthony O'Halloran**

21<sup>st</sup> July 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 Terminal at Balmain:

We live several blocks away from the White Bay Port. But our quality of life has been devastated by the Carnival Cruise Ships and Sydney Ports.

We endure at times a whole week 24/7 of toxic poison blowing into our home, being breathed in by young children and in our case by the family dog that the vet has diagnosed as having seizures as a result of the toxins from the ships.

As you will know, the ships that are at White Bay use bunker fuel, which has an extremely high sulphur content of 3.5 per cent. This is 35 times the limit the European Union limit has had from 1 January 2010. The United States requires ships to switch to fuel with a sulphur rate of 0.1 per cent within 200 kilometres of its coast. But not here. Anything goes when it comes to White Bay, because there is big revenue to be made.

Just one example of the ships that frequently visits White Bay, the Pacific Jewel, has 1,068 passenger rooms and when it is at berth for nine hours it emits sulphur dioxide equivalent to that coming from 28.5 million diesel-fuelled cars. We are slowly being killed.

Even now as I type, there is a ship pouring black death from its funnels. Does this sound like an exaggeration to you? I suspect it wouldn't if your own family were subjected to this.

We know that shore power was mandated in the 2011 project approval for the White Bay cruise terminal, which avoids extremely large emissions of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide and air particles. It would also dramatically reduce from the noise of the generators.

The noise of these generators is not small thing. When many of these ships are berthed, it is like being next to an airport. 24/7 the noise penetrates closed windows and doors of our home. We cannot sleep without earplugs. And we live blocks away from the terminal. My neighbours in the adjacent street have to have a radio on all night and they have proof-admitted by Sydney Ports-that the sound limits are well exceeded constantly.

We are desperate. There are enough facts on the table now to show that there is a serious human risk. What is it you are waiting for to take action? Does a child or baby need to fall ill? We are lucky our family pet is still alive. The phrase 'canary in a coalmine' comes to mind.

Sydney Ports, Carnival Cruises, and have given us platitute after platitute to try and stop us protesting to protect ourselves. The last excuse Sydney Ports gave me when I sent photos of the black smoke from the ship was: 'The wind was blowing the other way today'. This is the extent of their cavalier attitude, and confidence that they can slowing kill our families and children without any recompense than whatever half hearted excuse they think of at the time.

The fact that we have an organisation called the Environment Protection Authority is an absolute outrage. I have sent more than a dozen complaints, and all we get in response is reassurance it is on their agenda. But nothing is changing and we are still suffering.

I implore you, on behalf of my family, my residential community, our young children: Please stop this now before there is blood on your hands too. This atrocity needs to end now.

Yours sincerely.

Anthony O'Halloran