

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

Name: Ms Chrissie Tucker

Date received: 29/08/2014

The Hon Robert Brown MLC

Chair, General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

Legislative Council

NSW Parliament, Macquarie Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

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 and other ships at the White Bay Cruise Terminal at Balmain:

As a long-term resident (over 30 years) I have seen changes over the years to the operations of the White Bay marine area. Since the Cruise Ship Terminal has been in operation all health aspects of the local environment have deteriorated.

This is due to the Cruise ships themselves, the increased motor traffic along the wharf area and the shift of other large ships next to the Cruise Ship Terminal, quite often for overlapping periods.

All these activities have had the effect of:

- More frequent odours that permeate my house and make me feel sick, an unpleasant taste in my mouth and sore eyes and general bad health.
- Dirt and emissions that create a film of dust and filth over all areas of the house both externally and internally and the car.
- Extreme noise that occurs over 24-hour periods that on occasion, have nearly driven me mad and contribute to headaches and extreme stress.

Actions I have had to take to date:

- Frequent phone calls of complaint, usually in the middle of the night or early morning, to the EPA and Sydney Ports.
- I started working two days a month from home last year (I work full time), but had to stop this because of the smell and noise and not knowing when these would occur. It was affecting my health to work from home rather than at the office.
- At work it affected my concentration and stress levels, because of lack of sleep and caused lateness at work; I have had to take headache tablets and sometimes sleeping tablets, and then driving to work late with sedative effects.
- Pay \$1,800 for glazing on my bedroom doors, still has not cut out all the noise, because the doors cannot accommodate the full double glazing.
- Constant cleaning of the house.

Comments

I am dreading the upcoming Cruise Ship season that is about to start again.

I am dreading the other ships that stay overnight for a number of days next to the Terminal that have high emissions, loud noises, dirt and bright lights 24/7.

I did get involved with pre-terminal discussions and other activities and am aware of the breaches of emissions and low standards compared to other overseas ports, etc.

One particular point that keeps being brought up is that "the area has been a working harbour for 100 years so— just put up with it". This viewpoint is unbelievable. My house was built in the 1880s well before this 100-year claim but I have to comply with modern standards related to health and buildings. In society many laws and regulations have come into being to protect citizens and their health. We no longer smoke in offices, have loud parties after certain times, throw refuse on the street, drive cars with bad emissions. If we did we would be fined.

So why is it okay for residents—long and short term—to have to put up with these conditions affecting ill health. As well, there has never been a cruise ship terminal at White Bay, it should never have been approved in the first place. The other ships—freighters, fuelling ships, ice breakers, etc., should be relocated to other ports away from close residents, to comply with standards in 2014.

Yours sincerely,

Chrissie Tucker

29 August 2014