

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

Organisation: Balmain, White Bay & Rozelle Precincts
Date received: 12/08/2014

Submission re Enquiry into the performance of the NSW Environmental Protection Authority.

Subject: Regulation of cruise ships at White Bay Cruise Ship Terminal, Balmain.

The site chosen was inappropriate and the EPA has been unable to control Sydney Ports Authority & other Government Agencies with vested interests. It is well documented through experiences from mid 1990s to 2004 that shipping activities were incompatible with the close, dense, residential environment at White Bay. The EPA & Sydney Ports along with stakeholders formed a Noise Reference Committee to respond to many hundreds of complaints about the entire interface between port operations & residents. Issues related to noise & all forms of pollution. With this background, Sydney Ports supported the development & installation of a cruise ship facility. This was always going to be contentious & residents had vociferously protested against the cruise ship installation based on prior experience. Sadly, the installation proceeded despite Land & Environment findings that this was an inappropriate location for this activity. Part 3A was exercised, ignoring both community & Land & Environment Court advice. The EPA has been powerless in attempts to control these vested Government Agencies. These Agencies should be treated like any corporate organisation & made to comply with W H O standards.

We are now attempting to cope with the negative aspects of overriding the known health & amenity impacts on residents and the wider community.

Simply, this has caused families to evacuate their premises to escape noxious fumes especially when the prevailing winds push exhaust funnel fumes into adjoining homes. This photo indicates the amount of material being expelled from a cruise ship. In this image,



fortunately, the fumes were being directed away from the properties in closest proximity.

How can a Government Department endorse and ignore a known health risk to facilitate a commercial enterprise and a cruise ship is a commercial entity. Any other entity polluting its local environment would have been closed down & only allowed to proceed once it had demonstrated an ability

to operate within the known & expected guidelines.

The EPA should be given the legislative power and authority to implement appropriate measures which protect communities & the local environment in which they sit.