

White Bay Cruise Terminal

The White Bay Cruise Terminal has been operating since April 2013. This fact sheet has been compiled to provide information for the community.

- The White Bay Cruise Terminal is located on the south eastern arm of the Balmain Peninsula on the northern shore of White Bay. The site is within a broader area owned and controlled by Port Authority of New South Wales (Port Authority) and is within the Leichardt Local Government Area approximately 2.4km west of the Sydney CBD.
- The cruise terminal at White Bay started operating in April 2013 following the closure of No 8 Darling Harbour Cruise Terminal to facilitate the Barangaroo development. White Bay Cruise Terminal is Sydney's second cruise ship terminal for Sydney's cruise ship industry and caters mainly for the domestic market. The location was chosen because it was an existing port, close to the Sydney CBD; it was easily accessible, with capability of managing several ships at a time. (Source: Sydney Ports Corporation)
- Ships berth several times per week in the peak season and typically take up to 2,000 people. Cruise ships berth at the terminal for an average of 9.26 hours per call for home ported or seasonally home ported vessels (which account for 80% of berthings) or 11.84 hours per call overall (including all domestic, seasonal and international calls and overnight stays) . Occasionally cruise ships remain at berth for several days. Cruise ships require power for ship operations whilst in port, and use onboard generators to produce this power.
- The *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010* was amended in 2015 to reduce the sulfur content of fuel used by cruise ships in Sydney Harbour. Cruise ships were required to use low sulfur fuel (0.1% or less) while berthed in Sydney Harbour, The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) conducted regular inspections of cruise ships in Sydney Harbour, to assess compliance with the requirements. This was done by checking records, fuel and engine system monitoring data and also taking samples of fuel for laboratory testing. Compliance was very good.
- In May 2016 the EPA became aware that the Commonwealth Government introduced amendments to the [Protection of the Sea \(Prevention of Pollution from Ships\) Act 1983](#) into Parliament in September 2015 which were assented to in December 2015 have resulted in the NSW low sulfur fuel requirements being inoperative from 8 January 2016. The NSW government will seek agreement with the new Commonwealth government to enable the operation of the NSW low sulfur fuel requirements. In the interim both Carnival Australia and Royal Caribbean have agreed to comply voluntarily with the NSW low Sulphur fuel requirements whilst at berth.
- Although environmental conditions were imposed in the approval process, some residents have since raised concerns about health effects relating to air and noise pollution associated with the berthing of the cruise ships. This has been a matter for the Regulatory Agencies. NSW Health is assisting with advice on health issues.

How is White Bay Cruise Terminal regulated and monitored?

Environmental Emissions (General Requirements)

The planning approval issued by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) is the primary tool for regulating and monitoring emissions. The planning approval includes requirements for air, odour and noise emissions. DPE is responsible for regulating compliance with respect to the planning approval. In addition, Australia is a signatory to international requirements regulating the sulfur content of fuels and other measures to protect pollution of the seas, implemented through Commonwealth legislation, including the *Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1983*.

Air Emissions

Criteria have been set in the Planning Approval for particulate matter air pollution (PM₁₀) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). The maximum level allowed is the same as nationally set levels for ambient (outdoor) air quality by the National Environment Protection Council. Port Authority of NSW has conducted air monitoring for SO₂ and PM₁₀ as required by the planning approval. Results of this monitoring (available on its website) indicate compliance with the air quality requirements set for the cruise passenger terminal.

In the context of air emissions, and as part of the sustainable management of the port, Port Authority is conducting further air quality monitoring at White Bay. Having consulted with EPA to agree on the air quality parameters to be measured, the preferred location and the length of time for the monitoring, Port Authority has purchased and

installed an air quality monitoring station to continuously measure SO₂ and fine particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}) as well as local weather data.

There is near real-time reporting of these results via its website, and monthly reports are also published online. Monitoring commenced in early September 2015 and will initially measure these pollutants for 12-months, with ongoing monitoring to be considered after this period has ended.

Noise Emissions

The Planning Approval also sets criteria for noise, and this is based on the NSW EPA *Industrial Noise Policy*. Port Authority of NSW noise monitoring (available on its website) has identified a number of noise exceedances. Port Authority of NSW and DPE are exploring a number of further potential noise mitigation options including on-ship measures, a possible noise wall, provision of shore power and at-property measures as part of a Noise Impact Mitigation Strategy in consultation with DPE. .

Odours

Odours can occur from emissions to air and these are not measured in the same way as specific air pollutants like SO₂ and PM₁₀. The planning approval contains a condition requiring that offensive odours not be permitted to impact on sensitive receivers. DPE, the EPA and Port Authority of NSW are working to address odours which may impact on the community.

What is the impact on air quality from the terminal?

Sydney's air quality is generally very good and compares well to air quality in other cities in industrialised countries. Measurements taken at White Bay and Balmain indicate that air quality meets national ambient (outdoor) standards. PM₁₀ readings from the air quality monitors have generally been consistent with remote air quality stations in Randwick and Rozelle, indicating that cruise ships appear to have a minimal effect on PM₁₀. SO₂ levels have also been below national air quality standards.

What are the concerns about the terminal?

Some residents near the terminal are concerned that despite complying with national air quality standards there are still health implications from exposure to air and noise emissions. Residents have also reported sleep disturbances as a result of late night and early morning announcements, engine idling, and vibration caused by the ships' engines running while docked. Some residents have reported increased respiratory problems amongst those with underlying conditions, as well as irritated eyes and headaches. Odours and "black smoke" have also been concerns raised by residents.

While residents understand air quality meets standards for ambient air levels, some are concerned that standards are a broad measure and may not reflect direct impacts at properties close to the terminal. NSW Health takes these concerns seriously and supports all measures that reduce air pollution from ships especially to neighboring residences.

Impacts of odours from ship fumes are a common concern amongst residents. It has been reported that odours are noticeable inside the homes of those most affected and although exposure to odours may be a nuisance only, in some cases it may lead to health symptoms such as nausea and headache.

Low sulfur fuel will reduce odours, particulate matter and SO₂ emissions which will improve air quality.

For information on potential health effects of air pollution, noise and odours, please see 'further information' below.

How are the concerns being managed?

The EPA, NSW Health, and the DPE have been working with Port Authority of NSW to address impacts to the local community from the terminal. These agencies have also been working with local communities to communicate actions being taken.

Port Authority of NSW has implemented shore side mitigation measures including the control of restocking procedures, heavy vehicle access times and regular maintenance of operational equipment. Ship-based mitigation measures include the establishment of a "good neighbour policy" outlining expectations of cruise ships whilst at berth, including no 'all deck announcements' or music (excepting safety announcements), maintenance of ship generators/engines to ensure efficient operation and use of minimum generator/engine power required.

The Sydney Local Health District is also seeking the advice of the NSW Chief Health Officer's expert environmental health expert advisory panel in relation to some specific health questions raised by the community.

What should I do if I am concerned about symptoms?

If you are concerned about health symptoms related to exposure to polluted air you should initially see your local doctor. In addition, Asthma Australia's website has information on the causes and management of the condition that affects around 10 per cent of the population: <http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/>.

Further information

NSW Health has more information on air pollution and health at this website:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/air/Pages/default.aspx>

NSW Health has provided answers to some specific health questions and these are available in the document 'Health Information about cruise ships at White Bay' at the following webpage:

http://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/populationhealth/PHU_EH.html

If you would like further information about health matters please contact the Sydney Local Health District Public Health Unit on 915 9420 or email publichealth@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

For further information from Port Authority of New South Wales please see the website:

<http://www.portauthoritynsw.com.au/>. The Port Authority can also be emailed on enquiries@portauthoritynsw.com.au, or telephoned on 02 9296 4742.

The Port Authority of New South Wales real-time White Bay air monitoring station results webpage is located at:

<http://www.portauthoritynsw.com.au/airmonitoring>

General information on ambient air pollution can be downloaded from the WHO website at:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs313/en/>

Complaints Procedures

All community complaints about cruise ships and terminal operation (including noise, air quality and odours) should be lodged with the Port Authority NSW in the first instance.

24 hour complaints and enquiries to 9296 4962 or enquiries@portauthoritynsw.com.au

Noise complaints that are reported as still occurring will be investigated at the time of the complaint.

Complaints regarding noise from the White Bay Cruise Terminal can also be directed to the Rail, Ports and Water, Infrastructure Team at the Department of Planning and Environment.

Phone: 9228 6333 (business hours)

Email: information@planning.nsw.gov.au

Complaints about air emissions and odours can also be directed to Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) in the first instance, or the EPA.

AMSA Phone: 1800 641 792.

AMSA Submitted electronically at: <http://www.amsa.gov.au/contact-us/>.

EPA Phone: 131 555 (24 hours, 7 days)

EPA Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Other pollution concerns can also be reported to the EPA.

Phone: 131 555 (24 hours, 7 days)

Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au

If you are concerned about health symptoms which you think may be related to White Bay Cruise Terminal you should see your local doctor.