



Meeting Notes - White Bay Cruise Terminal - Meeting with Balmain Community Representatives and Government Agencies

Date	5 June 2015	Time	10:30-12:00
Location	EPA office Paroo Room, Level 14 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney		
Meeting Chair	Frank Garofalow		
Attendees	Lisa Marie-Murphy – Community member Kate Horrobin – Community member Kerin Cox – Community member Alan Rosen – Community member Kursty Delmas – Leichhardt Council Mike Sharpin – NSW EPA Anthony Savage – NSW EPA Sarah Deards – NSW EPA Karen Jones – Department of Planning and Environment Karen Harragon – Department of Planning and Environment Joe James – Port Authority of NSW Brad Milner – Port Authority of NSW Brendan Elliott – Port Authority of NSW Christa Sams – Port Authority of NSW Leena Gupta – Sydney Local Health District Public Health Unit Graham Burgess – Sydney Local Health District Public Health Unit		

1. Apologies

Ryan Cole – Leichhardt Council
Ryan Bennett – Port Authority of NSW
Marie Thomas – Community member
Richard Broome – NSW Health

2. Minutes of last meeting

Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) agreed to finalise minutes from last meeting.

3. Update from Residents

Residents expressed positive feedback on the low sulfur fuel regulation proposed by EPA, but indicated that they considered shore power was also required. Residents also expressed desire to speed up the timelines in the draft fuel regulation (see EPA update below for further information).

Kerin Cox tabled an article regarding psychological impacts of Mr Fluffy asbestos in Canberra, and indicated that Balmain residents feel the impacts of the cruise terminal are similar to those detailed in the article. The article is available online here: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/crisis-psychologist-likens-mr-fluffy-to-nuclear-disaster-20150531-gh4xxp.html>

Residents also expressed concerns regarding dust and soot within their homes.

4. Update from Port Authority of NSW

Shore power

Shore power investigations continue to be undertaken by Port Authority of NSW (PANSW). PANSW has liaised with a ten cruise ports globally to understand issues around shore power, which indicate that the drivers to install and experience with shore power is varied. None of the ports spoken to at this point have installed shore power in order to reduce noise impacts. PANSW is also preparing maps of ports around the world, including proximity to residential areas.

PANSW is looking for ways to communicate the findings of their investigations into shore power and will discuss with residents on this committee the best way to do so. Residents agreed to nominate one individual to act as conduit for this process.

PANSW has engaged Ausgrid to complete a pre-feasibility study on shore power. The study is progressing in accordance with expected timeframes, and is expected to be delivered between October and January.

Noise Impact Mitigation Strategy

PANSW reported that investigations into the four identified noise mitigation measures – mitigation at the source; house facade treatments; shore power; and noise wall – have all progressed.

PANSW have engaged noise consultants to further investigate at-source noise mitigation options, including operational and physical/ engineering changes. PANSW has also engaged an expert in ships to get a better understanding of how different components of the ship operate and their relative noise contribution.

In order to progress noise mitigation measures on ships PANSW plan to identify a pilot ship to trial operational measures on. Potential changes will then be identified, and a risk assessment undertaken. A physical trial of measures would then be undertaken to measure actual changes in noise. PANSW agreed to engage with the community during the measurement process to receive feedback on the impact of different operational scenarios during the trial.

Further information regarding at-source measures will be communicated to residents by the start of the peak cruise season.

Overnight stays

PANSW recently advised that overnight stays of cruise ships would be suspended until the low sulfur fuel regulation is in place. PANSW provided information regarding a vessel that was booked to visit the White Bay Cruise Terminal on 23 June, and has now been moved to Glebe Island in response to the announcement.

In response to a question from the community regarding unscheduled or emergency arrivals of cruise ships during the period of suspended overnight stays, PANSW advised that they

will try to avoid using the White Bay Cruise Terminal for any unscheduled overnight stays, but this must be assessed on a case by case basis. Residents expressed appreciation for the gesture, but continue to be concerned about the lack of mitigation measures.

Residents expressed concerns regarding the scheduled visit of the 'Superstar Virgo' cruise ship in December, which is currently booked to visit for 4 nights at the White Bay Cruise Terminal. Residents stated that the Overseas Passenger Terminal is available during this time, and questioned whether the Superstar Virgo could berth there instead of at White Bay.

Action: PANSW to investigate the berthing situation for the visit of the 'Superstar Virgo' and report back to the group.

Air quality monitoring station

PANSW advised that the next round of air quality monitoring is imminent and will monitor sulfur dioxide and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}) adjacent to the White Bay Cruise Terminal. Leichhardt Council have been consulted regarding the station location, and a contractor has been engaged to install and operate the station.

Other

Community members raised concerns regarding the stress and anxiety caused to them from cruise ship operations at the Terminal, and also the loss to the local community of community members leaving. The PANSW stated that they are working to identify ways to mitigate impacts to a point that is reasonable and feasible.

Action: PANSW to provide an update on variable speed fans. Post meeting update: PANSW understand that variable speed fans have now been installed on all Carnival Australia vessels.

5. Update from EPA

Low sulfur fuel regulation

The Clean Air Regulation is proposed to be amended to require cruise ships to use low sulfur fuel whilst at berth in Sydney Harbour by 1 October 2015, and within NSW Ports by 1 July 2016. The draft regulation is currently on exhibition, and the EPA is very keen for feedback from the community on the draft regulation.

At a previous meeting, the EPA had outlined the anticipated approach to low sulfur fuel regulation for cruise ships, which included a requirement for cruise ships to use ultra-low sulfur fuel in auxiliary engines whilst at berth. The EPA explained that the draft regulation currently on exhibition does not include this requirement, as the EPA investigated this further and discovered that cruise ships generally use their main engines whilst at berth, not auxiliary engines, so inclusion of this requirement would not have made sense and be misleading to the community.

Community members asked about exemptions permitted under the draft regulation. The EPA explained situations where exemptions will be considered. Community members also asked about ship safety exemptions, to which the EPA replied that it has advice that ship safety issues associated with fuel switching can be managed through procedures.

Community members asked about the ability of cruise ships to store low sulfur fuel on board and whether retrofits would be required to do so. The EPA replied that every ship is different. The EPA also indicated that the level of supply of low sulfur fuel at this point in time is a concern and the regulation and requirements are still being developed.

Leichhardt Council raised concerns regarding the short submission period for the draft regulation. The EPA acknowledged that the timeframe is short, but indicated that this is necessary to meet the timeframe required to have the regulation in place by 1 October 2015.

Community members asked whether the EPA would roll out requirements for low sulfur fuel to other shipping types. The EPA explained that action on air emissions from cruise shipping has been prioritised, but that emissions from other shipping will be considered in future. The DNV-GL report will focus on broader shipping and contribute to this work.

In regard to community concerns around the timeframe for the new regulation, the EPA advised that the timeframe for implementation of the new regulation is very short – both for the 1 October 2015 and 1 July 2016 deadlines. It is very unlikely that these deadlines could be brought any closer, as they are already very tight.

Dust from ship emissions

Community members raised concerns about dust from cruise ships emissions in their homes. The EPA indicated that all possible solutions currently talked about (low sulfur fuel, scrubbers and shore power) should decrease the amount of particulate matter pollution. The use of low sulfur fuel should significantly reduce particulates from ships.

6. Update from DP&E

DP&E stated that they are supportive of current progress on air and noise issues. DP&E also stated that they are reassured by investigations undertaken by PANSW on noise issues, and will continue to stay briefed.

A community member asked what recourse was available regarding dust in her home as a result of cruise ship emissions. DP&E advised the community member to write to DP&E regarding the matter. Sydney Local Health District Public Health Unit (SLHDPHU) also advised that their website contains useful resources on indoor air quality.

7. Update from SLHDPHU

SLHDPHU indicated that they consider measures to address air quality and noise very important, and that it is important that these are put in place as soon as possible.

A community member raised concerns regarding the fact sheet produced by SLHDPHU regarding the White Bay Cruise Terminal, particularly that the fact sheet does not provide an accurate representation of the health impacts of the terminal, and that the fact sheet does not mention World Health Organisation standards and other studies. The community member requested that the fact sheet be revised. SLHDPHU indicated that the fact sheet was based on community questions, but that it is planned to review the fact sheet.

Action: Public Health Unit will review the fact sheet and update taking into consideration resident's comments.

8. Other business

A community member tabled an article from the Sydney Morning Herald on 4 June regarding Mr Fluffy asbestos contamination, stating that it captures how residents in Balmain feel.

9. Next meeting

11:00 am 21/8/15 hosted by PANSW