

Mr Ricardo Prieto-Curiel
Senior Environmental Planner
Port Authority of NSW
PO Box 25
Millers Point NSW 2000

05/05/2020

Dear Mr Prieto-Curiel

Eden Breakwater Wharf Extension (SSI 7734) — Request to discontinue Air Quality Monitoring Program for the Port of Eden cruise ship facility

I refer to your letter dated 23 March 2020 requesting discontinuation of the Air Quality Monitoring Program required under condition D12 of the infrastructure approval. It is noted that operation of the cruise ship facility commenced in September 2019 and that condition D12 requires air quality monitoring during the cruise season for a period of five years from commencement of operation or another time period as agreed or directed by the Secretary. It is also noted that the 2019/2020 cruise season has shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department notes the information provided in the September to January monthly air quality and meteorological monitoring reports, including the exceedance of the PM_{2.5} criterion during a cruise ship visit on 1 November 2019 which was not reported to the Department as an incident but which is accepted to be due to smoke from the major bushfires which affected south-east Australia over summer. It is noted that the Air Quality Operation Monitoring Report required under Condition D13 is due for submission one month after the end of each cruise season and the Department looks forward to receiving the report for the 2019/2020 cruise season in due course.

The Department considers that a key purpose for requiring an Air Quality Monitoring Program is to verify air quality predictions for 'typical operations' of the facility. On this basis, the Department does not consider that the Air Quality Monitoring Program should be discontinued after only one shortened cruise ship season. However, it is acknowledged that the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic has affected, and is likely to continue to affect, the cruise industry, and typical operations may take some time to be restored.

As such, the Department considers that the air quality monitoring program should be suspended for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 cruise seasons, with monitoring required to recommence to cover the full 2022/2023 cruise season.

Should you have any enquiries regarding the above matter, please contact Dominic Crinnion on 9274 6495 or via email at Dominic.Crinnion@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH', with a large circular flourish on the left and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karen Harragon
Director, Social And Infrastructure Assessments
Social & Infrastructure Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary