This submission does not follow the controlled guidelines you have set down. Nor does it address the EPA’s reports on air quality. However it is a very serious submission and the points made should be taken seriously.

Over the years I have had numerous discussions with EPA staff, made numerous reports of problems with ship pollution, written to numerous ministers, sent numerous emails, attended numerous meetings held by the EPA with the community. It’s dizzying.

The result of all this? Ship pollution has got a lot worse.

How have we reached this point? What has been the purpose of all the meetings, reports, emails, telephone discussions? A lot of taxpayer dollars have been spent to get nowhere.

Stonewalling? Tactics to make the electorate think something is being done? Nothing’s being done. Nothing is being achieved. It has got worse.

So is this report just another in the long list of ways and means to do nothing so big corporations can continue to pollute?

The EPA knows the air problems. You are the experts. Fix it.

Ah but you can’t. You have to keep the spin going with every phone call, every meeting.

Why do you have to do this? You will lose your job if you don’t.

And why is that boss you answer to so weak and in many ways unworthy of the position he or she hold? Purely and simply the boss is compliant. Does as he or she is told. Has to or gets fired.

Isn’t it freaky how these days so many bureaucratic bosses got the position over people already in the bureaucracy who are better educated in the field, more knowledgeable, more experienced with greater skills to manage the portfolio.

How did it get like this because let me tell you 30 years ago it was very different. 30 years ago you couldn’t get sacked for giving frank and fearless advice. You couldn’t get a top bureaucratic job without serving the public for years and passing exams along the way to prove you could.

So what happened? Roughly 30 years ago the public sector underwent a major restructure. Rules were rewritten and the mess we’ve got now is the result. Very little separation of powers. Ministers rule. Bureaucrats do as they are told.

The numerous statutory bodies like yours did not exist in today’s grand numbers. The work you do was under the umbrella of a department created under the constitution and with ministerial responsibility for the activities of the department. Not any more. Responsibility to citizens (that’s you too), gone.

Why did we have the old system that worked well for 150 years? Here’s a link to a site explaining that system’s origins and part of its aim was to stop priority, privilege and preference from playing a role in the appointment of bureaucrats. This was aimed at overcoming the corruption that was rife at the time.

We threw this system out 30 years ago as did Britain. Now governments can do as they please and lead citizens on a wild goose chase with compliant bureaucrats leading the merry chase and doing as they’re told or get the sack.

There is now very close government connection with business where previously it was seen vital to keep business at arm’s length from government. Now it’s hard to see the line between business and government. Lobbyists did not exist. Now they are the ones heard.

So all this only leads to more questions like “how do these things come about?” “Who puts them forward and gets them passed?”

J F Kennedy knew. He spoke about what was really happening at the top echelons of society. He only did it once. Here it is.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8HTr-F-FVM

Called JFK – The Speech That Got Him Killed

If people make comments like this now immediately they are called conspiracy theorists.

But really who is in control? The government or the corporations? Where is the line?

The EPA is not in control of its portfolio. If so why spend years on reports and do nothing about the problem? The controllers of this game are laughing at us; that’s you too. They’ve got you people running around in circles filling out paperwork, the citizens filling out smell diaries. How laughable. What’s the point when there are no powers to enforce anything?

This is especially pertinent with the outrageous volumes of carcinogenic toxins spewed into Sydney’s air from cruise ships.

We expect the EPA to fix the problem. Enquiry, meeting, submission stage is well and truly over. We’ve had enough. We’re not fooled.

You know the problems. Fix it.

Do so before all your generation and your children has some horrible degenerative or terminal disease.

The air is so bad with his heart problems must stay inside for the rest of summer.

So now a big part of your job is to work to repair the system; don’t change it, restore it. It used to work – a lot better than it does now.