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MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 3 June 2015

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OPEN ON DRAFT REGULATION FOR LOW SULPHUR FUEL IN CRUISE SHIPS

Environment Minister Mark Speakman has issued a draft regulation for public discussion on the use of low sulphur fuel in cruise ships operating in Sydney Harbour.

The new draft regulation follows concerns raised by residents living near the White Bay cruise terminal about emissions from cruise ships.

It also follows last week's announcement by the Port Authority of NSW that overnight cruise ship visits had been suspended until the low sulphur fuel regulation had been resolved.

Mr Speakman said the draft regulation, which will mandate the use of fuel with a sulphur content of 0.1 per cent or less, shows the NSW Government is listening and acting on community concerns.

The draft regulation will be open to public comment for the next two weeks. Comments can be made at <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/EPAconsult/> until midday Monday 15 June.

The NSW Government is aiming to have the draft regulation in operation for the start of the cruise season.

Mr Speakman said that the government remained on schedule to fulfil its election commitment of a regulation starting on 1 July 2016 requiring cruise ships in all NSW ports to use fuel with a sulphur content of 0.1 per cent or less.

The draft regulation is available on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/air-ports-sub.htm>