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MEDIA RELEASE

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REGULATION FOR LOW SULFUR FUEL IN CRUISE SHIPS

Environment Minister Mark Speakman has announced the final form of a new regulation requiring the use of low sulfur fuel in cruise ships in Sydney Harbour.

The new regulation, which was an election commitment, follows consultation earlier this year about a draft regulation and concerns raised in particular by residents living near the new White Bay Cruise Terminal about emissions from cruise ships.

Mr Speakman said that the regulation, which mandates the use of fuel with a sulfur content of 0.1% or less, showed the NSW Government was listening and acting on community concerns.

The regulation will amend the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010* to require cruise ships to use low sulfur fuel (0.1% or less) as follows:

1. From 1 October 2015 – when berthed in Sydney Harbour (Stage 1) (Around 90% per cent of sulfur dioxide emissions from shipping in Sydney Harbour have been estimated to occur when ships are at berth).
2. From 1 July 2016 – when otherwise operating in Sydney Harbour (Stage 2).

Mr Speakman said that the new regulation would account for concerns about safety at sea, adequacy of local fuel supply and necessary ship modifications with appropriate defences, exemptions and exclusions for Stage 2.

“The regulation also provides for alternative compliance with emissions requirements through innovative technological alternatives such as exhaust scrubbers”.

“The regulation strikes a balance between the critical need to ensure the highest possible community health standards and the imposition of regulatory burdens on industry.”

Mr Speakman said the Government would also continue community consultation in regional areas with a view to applying the new regulation to all NSW ports by 1 July 2016.