

SAVE YARRA BAY

Thousands of residents, many businesses, our two local Councils (Randwick and Bayside) and other stakeholders are united in opposition to the New South Wales government's evaluation of Yarra Bay as a location for a mega cruise ship terminal. We are joined by our Federal and State Members of Parliament (Matt Thistlethwaite and Michael Daley) and the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Council, the traditional custodians of the land.

Yarra Bay is in a direct line to the ocean and huge swells can roll into the bay at any time of the year. The existing breakwater that shelters ships at Port Botany is west of Yarra Bay and would not protect the proposed terminal. A terminal in Yarra Bay would require massive investment in new breakwaters and other engineering works to protect gigantic berthed vessels from the effects of waves and wind.

The building of breakwaters and wharves for mega cruise ships and the associated dredging of the sea bed would completely change the character of Yarra Bay. The impact of the works on other beaches and sensitive locations in Botany Bay is difficult to predict but unlikely to be benign.

Botany Bay is home to hundreds of marine species, including some that are threatened. Loss of species, coastal erosion and degradation of wetlands and sea grasses are some of the environmental impacts that would result from this project.

Extensive dredging would also reclaim much of Yarra Bay for a passenger terminal and for bus and car parks. A new road through a heritage-listed area would be required to carry busloads of passengers to and from their ships.

The cost of the terminal would likely be over a billion dollars. Once all this has been paid for by the taxpayer, On Shore Power will be out of the question, so local residents will have to endure the diesel fumes and noise of ships' generators running constantly.

Yarra Bay is a very popular Sydney beach both with locals and people from the Western Suburbs who can access it easily via the M5 and Foreshore Road. If Yarra Bay was spoilt or lost altogether, its current users would move to our other, already crowded beaches. It makes no sense in a fast growing city such as Sydney to sacrifice a precious recreational asset such as this beautiful beach.

The Yarra Bay Sailing Club has conducted sail training and racing from its club house on Yarra Bay since 1927. The club's courses make use of the full extent of Yarra Bay during the summer season when the proposed terminal would operate. A terminal of the size required, with breakwaters and extremely tall mega cruise ships alongside, would totally compromise the club's courses and interfere with the winds they rely on. The club is a valuable sporting outlet and life skills education facility for young people. It cannot survive the loss of its sailing courses to a mega cruise ship terminal that caters not to the needs of youth but to the growth ambitions of the cruise industry and the convenience of its predominantly elderly customer base.

Yarra Bay is steeped in history. It is one of the only remaining areas in Sydney where indigenous people have had continuous connection to the land and sea for thousands of years. Yarra Bay is the site of a famous Aboriginal settlement and the Aboriginal Land Council is strongly opposed to losing control of this land for a cruise ship terminal. The land is sacred to Australia's indigenous community and this will

become more than a local political battle if they lose access to the Bay for traditional fishing and other cultural practices.

Yarra Bay is also an area of major heritage significance in the history of European settlement, being the place where the First Fleet and other Europeans arrived and had initial contact with the traditional owners.

Road congestion in the area already affects the operation of busy Port Botany's freight operations. A cruise terminal would unload and load 7,000 or more people in a single day from two gigantic ships. Adding hundreds of buses, taxis and delivery trucks to Foreshore Road, Botany Road, Bunnerong Road and adjoining roads would severely impact this heavily congested area which is already vulnerable to gridlock.

The modest plans that exist to improve the transport and road infrastructure in this part of Sydney are not adequate to meet the additional needs of a mega cruise ship terminal. The congestion that would ensue when thousands of passengers and crew were transported along our local main roads would be stressful for cruise ship passengers, but also severely impact our residential communities and Port Botany.

For all the above reasons, Yarra Bay simply doesn't make sense when there are more suitable sites in regional NSW such as Newcastle and Port Kembla (Wollongong) where the terminal would be welcome. We also have it on record that the leaders of the big American owned cruise companies think Port Botany is a "horrible" location for a mega cruise ship terminal.

We appeal to you to support our campaign of opposition to this unrealistic proposal from the NSW Government. We understand the need to find a solution to cruise industry port constraints in NSW, but a terminal in Yarra Bay or at Molineaux Point is not the answer.

Save the Bay Coalition is on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SaveYarraBay/>

If you want to become involved in the campaign to Save Yarra Bay, or can offer expertise or advice, please contact Maria Poulos or Chris Kitamura at:

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