



**From the
Office of the Mayor**
Councillor Joe Awada



20 November 2019

Our Ref: F18/679 19/333292
Contact: Joe Awada 0438 223 600

The Hon Gladys Berijiklian
Premier
Parliament of NSW
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

I write to formally reject the proposed Cruise Ship Terminal in Yarra Bay. As Mayor of Bayside Council, my local government area takes in Botany Bay and surrounding foreshore suburbs.

I call upon you to stop the current process being undertaken to progress the proposed cruise ship terminal at Yarra Bay.

The obvious solution is Garden Island to alleviate the constraints on cruise infrastructure capacity and this location is supported by those who have reviewed all the information, including the cabinet-in-confidence and commercial-in-confidence documentation.

I call on you to release the cabinet-in-confidence and commercial-in-confidence documentation to enable my community and the impacted communities around Botany Bay to be fully informed of why your government is progressing this proposal.

The Garden Island solution is supported by communities surrounding Botany Bay. The Garden Island solution would provide a tourism experience like no other, with mega cruise ships sailing into our beautiful jewel, Sydney Harbour.

It was the recommendation made by former Leader of the Liberal National Party in NSW, Mr Peter Collins in his final report where he stated Garden Island as the preferred facility for a new cruise ship terminal.

I know you are hearing the growing community concerns for Botany Bay and surrounding suburbs of Bayside should your proposal proceed. I am certain you have seen the call to action like no other, where politicians from all sides have supported Garden Island as the preferred site. Grass roots community groups such as Save the Bay Coalition have activated their voice against cruise ships in Yarra Bay.

On 20 November 2019, the St George Leader has activated my electorate and Prime Minister Morrison's electorate with their front page headline "Anger rises over cruise ship plan." My fellow councillors and I echo these words and our message is clear – no cruise ships in Botany Bay.

It is extremely important to the Botany Bay communities, that you seriously reconsider the NSW government's current position to progress a detailed business case for a terminal in Yarra Bay.

Respectfully, Yarra Bay and the Aboriginal Land Council of La Perouse have raised concerns regarding the lack of consultation around significant erosion of their spiritual and social connection to this land and the destruction of traditional fishing areas.

Environmentally, the whole of Botany Bay will be profoundly impacted for generations to come by the changes in wave patterns that would see 8km of Lady Robinson Beach disappear. Our beaches provide much-needed open space and recreational activities for the local community and the area also attracts Western Sydney communities who see the Botany Bay foreshore as their playground on weekends and hot summer nights. These voices are joining the call to action for no cruise ships in Botany Bay.

Marine and bird life will be considerably impacted when it should be protected by governments for future generations. Currently Botany Bay is home to many protected species of marine and bird life. Some species are extremely susceptible to habitat change and any disturbance can lead to their possible extinction.

Traffic congestion issues on local and state roads in and around Yarra Bay are already at capacity, the Eastern Economic Corridor would come to a standstill with increased traffic movements of trucks and services associated with a cruise terminal facility in Yarra Bay.

Premier, we simply cannot allow a cruise ship terminal in Yarra Bay.

I call upon you to take on board these views, the views of our community, the views of industry leaders including Tourism Australia and the Cruise Ship Industry, who all agree – Garden Island is the preferred solution.

Please call a meeting at your earliest convenience for all Mayors surrounding Botany Bay to discuss this very important community issue and the way forward for our communities.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Awada', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Joe Awada
Mayor