

**Submission  
No 33**

**INQUIRY INTO CLOSURE OF THE CRONULLA  
FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

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I am a avid fisherman and was appalled to read about the closure of Cronulla fisheries and the expense its going to cost to the N.S.W. taxpayer to relocated the facilities and job losses that will also occur let alone the loss of experienced fisheries scientists and managers but most important of all is the resource of our fish stock for the future.

The government has recently spent 1million tax payers money up grading this facility and now wants to relocated it at an estimated \$10million which as we know will exceed some \$30million plus. The person responsible for this reckless decision is obviously over paid and does not have a clue about fund management let alone fisheries and their families employed in this fine department.

I am especially concerned that more than half of the staff will be lost and wonder how the government will be able to regulate and manage our fisheries with such a loss of experienced fisheries scientists and managers. It is estimated up to 90% of the staff will not be able to move to the new location and therefore specialised skills and experience will be lost forever from the fisheries.

There is a great risk to sustainability of N.S.W. fisheries resources with the loss of so much specialised fisheries scientific and management expertise which can only mean one thing for the fisheries resources of N.S.W. greater uncertainty and therefore greater risk of overfishing.

As I understand the current Cronulla site cost very little to run and is rent free with maintenance costs are modest. The Cronulla facilities are state of the art and have had over \$1million recently spent on up grading and modernising the laboratory facilities. So lets as N.S.W. taxpayers spend more money some \$20million relocating this facility which will be less central and will be more difficult to access. What a great idea this public department has come up with to waste tax payers money and jeopardize this most valuable resource. I feel this is a great example of the N.S.W. Government bullying this department and a great waste of N.S.W. taxpayers money. This is a very poor and ill informed decision. The announcement was made by a Minister who has not visited the staff at the Cronulla site and had virtually no consultation with the major stakeholders. The N.S.W. government needs to invest in our fisheries and relocating at great cost is the wrong way. The fishery is more valuable than the land it stands on in the long run. Wake up N.S.W. Government sack the minister and give his or her wage to Cronulla fisheries at least it will be spent of our future and my children children and this fine resource we have.