

**Submission
No 3**

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

Name: Ms Tanya Briggs

Date received: 4/07/2012

Dear Reverend Nile, I am pleased to hear you are inquiring into the proposed closure of the fisheries centre at Cronulla. I strongly oppose the proposed closure because it is unjustified and unjustifiable. What possible reason can there be to dismantle a fisheries centre of excellence, to split up fisheries scientists from a place of central resources and professional collegiate support? Either these resources will need to be duplicated in other mystery locations at significant cost or these resources will not be provided and the important fisheries science work into fish stocks and sharks will also be discontinued. With permanent scientific positions as rare as hen's teeth, the push to decentralise and disperse operations will disperse staff, act as a disincentive to marine science careers, and kill off the marine science field in NSW. My sister completed a three year marine science degree at Southern Cross University, and after two three-month contracts, decided to retrain as a chef. The lack of job opportunities in the marine science field formed part of her decision. So that's what will happen to this state's existing marine scientists - like many of our other scientists - they will be forced through lack of job opportunities into other fields. The work of marine scientists is important. They study fish stocks, breed fish and release them so that people have enough fish to eat today and in the years to come. I also support the shark research program. It is important to know how many sharks there are and what their habits are for safety and biodiversity. Please keep the Cronulla centre open and let the marine scientists continue their important work for the people of NSW today and generations to come. Yours sincerely, Tanya Briggs