

**Submission
No 91**

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

Name: Mr Michael Ristevski

Date received: 30/06/2012

From: "RISTEVSKI, MICHAEL"
To: <cronullafisheries@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 7/30/2012 9:33 pm
Subject: FW: Closure of the cronulla fisheries centre and relocation of the centre's dedicated staff

Dear Select Committee

Please find below, an email I sent to Ms Hodgkinson's office on learning about the closure of the Cronulla Fisheries Centre, together with her response.

I cannot believe a Minister can be allowed to make such a terrible decision and waste tax payers money over a policy of decentralisation.

The Minister clearly has absolutely no idea. I really would like the Committee to find what evidence she bases her argument about the centre having "limited access and constrained modernisation and expansion capacity"....?? Is she really talking about the Cronulla Fisheries Centre??? I know of the centre, have even visited the centre and I am seriously dumb founded by its "limited access" statement. She must have looked into expanding and modernising the centre because she clearly seems to have made some of her decision even based on that argument? I'd really like to see those documents.

I find it even more unbelievable that she thinks that by blowing the centre apart and sending bits all over the State that there will be " greater interaction between fishers, scientists and fisheries managers". I think she thinks the public are absolute idiots. I want to know how much this 'big bang' theory of hers is costing me in tax payer dollars.

I have read many of the blogs posted in rec fishing magazines and the leader articles - none of them sound to me like staff are being looked after. Maybe the Committee should ask staff, their families and fishing stakeholders if the Government has indeed shown them the " highest regard" to their needs. I sincerely doubt it.

I also don't understand why she keeps trying to promote Port Stephens as an excellent research centre. I didn't think Cronulla wasn't, afterall isn't Cronulla known as the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence???

I am also quite bemused that the shooters and fishers party who seem to enjoy fishers votes, clearly only care about shooting in national parks and reserves.

I have grave concerns about the O'Farrell Government. I find their level of arrogance quite irritating. I don't doubt that regional economies need a boost and need to be helped out. However, I disagree with how this Government is tackling that problem. I can assure you that their policy on decentralisation was not what I based my vote on at the last election. In fact I was completely unaware of it.

It seems to me that Minister Hodgkinson failed to plan her decision and clearly made it in haste without not once thinking about the impacts of it or on the fishing community in general or small businesses in the Shire. The Shire can ill-afford yet another big employer to be walking out on it.

I disagree whole-heartedly with the decision and I certainly don't agree with any of her arguments for having it closed. Its not too late to reverse the decision.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ristevski

-----Original Message-----

From: Public Hodgkinson's Office Email [mailto:Office@hodgkinson.minister.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 10 October 2011 12:38 PM
To: RISTEVSKI, MICHAEL
Subject: RE: Closure of the cronulla fisheries centre and relocation of the centre's dedicated staff

Dear Mr Ristevski,

Thank you for your recent correspondence in relation to the recent announcement by the NSW Government to decentralise services and facilities currently located at the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre.

Over the next 12 to 18 months the NSW Government will decentralise the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre to a number of locations along the NSW coastline - such as Port Stephens, Coffs Harbour and Nowra.

One of the many reasons why the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre will be relocated is because the Cronulla site has limited access and constrained modernisation and expansion capacity.

Decentralisation of the Centre will also ensure there is greater interaction between fishers, scientists and fisheries managers. Excellent facilities are already in place at NSW Fisheries locations along the coast, including world-class research facilities and high-quality water at the Port Stephens centre.

As part of the NSW Government's 'Decade of Decentralisation' policy announced prior to the March election, we are determined to ensure regional NSW plays a bigger part than ever before in the future of this State. This initiative will be undertaken in a manner which meets the needs of all fishing stakeholders while also providing the socio-economic benefits to these regional centres.

The NSW Government intends to maintain the current level of services and research currently provided by the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre. Indeed, the functions and services undertaken at the Cronulla site will be replicated at the regional locations.

Consistent with our commitment to ensure the current level of services enjoyed by fishers and the industry provided in the future, I am pleased to inform you that a number of options are available for employees who wish to relocate and entitlements are available under the Crown Employees Transferred Employees Compensation Award 2009. As management of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre work through the relocation project, regular communication will take place to keep employees informed.

The NSW Government has no plans to develop or sell the site and we encourage the local community to establish a working group to consider all options for the future use of the site, taking into account its historical and cultural significance.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns with me. The NSW Government is determined to ensure that the relocation of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre is undertaken with the highest regard to the needs of its employees, their families and all fishing stakeholders.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries

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From: RISTEVSKI, MICHAEL

Sent: Saturday, 24 September 2011 8:09 AM

To: Public Hodgkinson's Office Email

Cc: Premier's Office; cronulla@parliment.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Closure of the cronulla fisheries centre and relocation of the centre's dedicated staff

Importance: High

Dear Ms Hodgkinson

I am writing via email because I am astounded about learning of your decision to close the fisheries centre at cronulla. Have you even been to the centre? How can you say its old when so much money has been poured into having it refurbished? Do you know anything about the importance of the centre and how it supports its local community and small businesses in the St George and Sutherland Shire areas? As Minister for Small Business I don't think you are really supporting small business at all - certainly not in the Shire anyway! How can you possibly justify the millions of dollars spent on closing the centre and relocating jobs? If this is how you are justifying spending my tax money when this state is so heavily in debt, then I am disgusted. The Shire is a regional area in itself and needs those jobs to remain local. I urge you to reconsider your decision. I have signed the petition and support the staff 100%. This whole decision reaks of the former governments dirty and underhanded ways. You've lost my vote and that of my family if this goes through. I can't imagine how the families of the staff are handling this decision and especially in such hard economic times.

Michael