

Submission
No 21

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially Confidential

I am the husband of an employee at the Cronulla site. The proposed decentralisation of this site does not make any sense what so ever. It is currently a well established and recently refurbished world class facility that has minimal maintenance and rental costs associated with it. It is located in an ideal location near major public transport, rail, air and sea, and has the ability to expand if required and is well suited to services its clients needs.

The cost of moving this site, financially (equipment and facilities needing to be replaced, costs of relocations or redundancies), emotionally (families, being up rooted away from extended families, spouses force to quit their jobs, etc) and professionally (expertise and knowledge lost) is astronomical. As well as loosing local jobs and their financial input in the local community. Kids in to schools, local business and sporting clubs and spouses' employment etc.

I personally CAN NOT move as my job does not allow for that.

This means that my wife either has to quit her job or, with the current proposal, travel in excess of two hours each way to work a day.

The proposed site that does not cater for boats, being away form the water, and has no suitable storage or washing facilities. It does not have any allocated parking if she and other staff choose to drive and is located about 30 min walk from the nearest public transport, with clear advice from security in the area that anyone, let alone lone females, should not be walking in the area during the day let alone after dark.

To use the boats and run their school programs it would mean a 2 hour drive to work to collect the boat, a two hour drive back to the coast to launch and do their work and a total of another fours drive to put it all away again. As well as time to clean and maintain the boat, which can not be legally achieved as there is not approved wash facility or showers or change rooms for the staff. Crazy.

All this so that a millions of \$ can be spent to achieve what? It simply does not make sense. Then to hear that the minister directs that costs should all be kept under \$1Mil to avoid scrutiny but do it repeatedly, just smacks of something to hide. Why doesn't she answer questions directly? Why hasn't she visited the site in Cronulla properly, not just driven past it etc. Go and have a good look at the site, what it does and the facilities it has. Are the water police and other agencies that use the site going to be moved or are we just moving fisheries but retaining the site anyway for the other agencies? So many questions and more that have not been looked at or answered.

The site on Coffs Harbour looks like it will be affected by high water in the next few years or so but that the building has taken that into account. Really, do we want a building that is going to be inundated by high water with in its life span. What about the access road which is already affected by high water or the staff car park etc. Are all these things going to be protected from high water? Guess what, Cronulla doesn't have that issue and never will. If it is all above board then do it properly instead of trying to segment it to avoid attention. Cronulla Fisheries is not broken and where it is situated does not cost a huge amount so why try and fix it.

Moving does not make any sort of logical sense where you agree with it or not.