

**Submission
No 18**

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

Name: Mr John Masens

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26 July, 2012
Select Committee on Cronulla Fisheries Closure
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed closure of the Cronulla fisheries.

The Minister for Primary Industries The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson has stated that the closure of the Cronulla fisheries is part of the states decentralization policy.

While I am a strong advocate for decentralization I do not think that the closure of the fisheries will in any way enhance the program but rather do irreparable damage to our marine research.

The Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence (CFRCoE) is a focal point for marine research in Australia. It is internationally recognized as a state of the art research centre with regular visits from overseas scientists.

One of the main attractions is its location. Situated in Sydney it is close to the major Universities and other academic institutions, close to the international and domestic airports and other facilities that attract overseas visitors.

It also appears that that a large number of the CFRCoE staff will be either unwilling or unable to relocate. This will result in a loss of scientific expertise.

Marine research is a vast and varied field and there is room for growth in all the regional centres without having to close Cronulla.

NSW should be proud of having a world renowned marine research facility such as CFRCoE and do its utmost to preserve it. Especially since closing it will do nothing towards decentralisation.

Yours sincerely

John Masens