

Submission
No 40

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 30/07/2012

Partially Confidential

Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

To the Select Committee on Cronulla Fisheries Closure

I wish to express my concerns regarding the planned closure of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence (CFRCoE) and relocation of services elsewhere within NSW. As a recreational fisher, I am outraged by the decision and I have seen no benefit to the commercial or recreational fishing community by such a decision.

My belief is that there will be no improvement to the service currently provided and the cost of relocation is therefore unwarranted. There has been no recent documentation of an economic or financial analysis into the closure by the ministers office prior to her announcement. This was announced without consultation with either staff, local communities or recreational fishers. I have heard of no discussions with recreational angling groups prior to the announcement. As a recreational angler, I am expressing my concerns now because there was no opportunity to provide submissions to the ministers office prior to her final decision being made.

My specific concerns are:

- The annual cost to maintain the Cronulla site is less than the total cost to relocate staff and services
- The loss of expertise who are unwilling or unable to relocate will be significantly high
- Staff are specifically trained and will not have work opportunities outside the fisheries organisation as there are no other employees within NSW
- Replacing staff who do not relocate cannot be achieved without training new employees
- The division of research, commercial management and recreational management into different locations around the states will reduce the ability for staff to communicate within the organisation
- The division creates a silo effect where customers are unsure where to address their issues
- The location at Cronulla has historic significance which I believe should be maintained

I wish to thank the committee for the opportunity to express my view.