

**Submission
No 19**

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

Name: Mrs Flora Masens

Date received: 26/07/2012

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

I am writing about my concerns regarding the intention of closing down The Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre and decentralising the services to Regional NSW.

I have read the Government Press Release containing reasons for closure and have also read the arguments against the closure.

On reading both documents I cannot see any good reason to close down such an important internationally recognized Centre. NSW will be losing not only an iconic Centre but also the expertise of such highly qualified Scientists and staff.

The main reason appears to be to Regionalise Government Departments to where the projects are, but by moving the Fisheries away from Cronulla, Sydney, where all the major waterways, beaches, fishing and boating areas are appears contradictory. Surely the major centre should remain in Sydney and not Regional NSW?!

Apparently the Heritage listed buildings and aquaria facilities have recently been upgraded at a substantial cost to the taxpayer. As a taxpayer I deplore the wastage of money spent on a facility that is now proposed to close. Further to this argument money will have to be spent on upgrading the Regional facilities to be able to continue the same/similar work, again a further waste of the taxpayer's dollar!!!

The Cronulla Fisheries is also a Centre of education and support to the Sydney Universities of NSW, providing necessary mentoring and education and projects to our future Scientists. So where will these future scientists go? Probably Interstate or Overseas, certainly not to Regional NSW, where the support is not available.

I cannot believe that the Liberal Party, who have such a proud record in the history of NSW could come to this decision in closing down such an important internationally renowned centre for reasons that make no sense to me at all.

NSW need to keep this Centre open and working, along with other important major centres to get this State back to being the number one state in Australia. If this bizarre decision is not overturned NSW will continue to be the "Poor Cousin" of all the other States.

Yours faithfully,

Flora D Masens.