

Submission  
No 88

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 30/07/2012

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Partially Confidential

Re: Inquiry into Closure of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence

Loss of expertise:

The staff at Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre (CFRC) are specialists. The scientific staff have in excess of 500 years experience in fisheries research. It is estimated that more than 90% of staff will not be able to move to the proposed new locations and therefore specialised skills and experience will be lost from Fisheries.

Cost to tax payers:

Currently the Cronulla site costs little to run. There is no rent and maintenance costs are modest. It is estimated that staff relocation costs, plus moving costs and provision of facilities at new sites will be in excess of \$20 million.

Loss of brand:

The Cronulla fisheries site is a unique and iconic institution in terms of its scientific and fisheries management credentials, its heritage and cultural value, and is highly regarded by the national and international scientific communities as a research centre of excellence.

Conclusion:

This is a very poor and ill informed decision. The announcement was made by a Minister who has not visited the staff at the Cronulla site and had virtually no consultation with the major stakeholders.