

**Submission  
No 54**

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

**Organisation:** Capital Region Fishing Alliance

**Date received:** 29/07/2012

---

**cronullafisheries - Submission to Inquiry on closure of Cronulla Fisheries**

**From:** "Capital Region Fishing Alliance" <info@crfa.org.au>  
**To:** <cronullafisheries@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 7/29/2012 12:06 PM  
**Subject:** Submission to Inquiry on closure of Cronulla Fisheries

---

To the Legislative Council Select Committee on Cronulla Fisheries,

As a member of the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF), I write to express my disappointment and opposition to the government's decision to close the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre.

ACoRF were not presented with any written information on the closure, just a verbal presentation at a meeting. No economic or financial analysis of the closure has been tabled or provided to ACoRF to my knowledge. No consultation was conducted with ACoRF prior to ACoRF being told of the decision. From what staff have told me, they were not consulted either. The decision came as a surprise to many. I've yet to read of any stakeholder group being consulted before the decision.

Holding ACoRF meetings in Sydney is convenient for the vast majority of Council members and Fisheries staff. Sydney is centrally located, well serviced by flights, transport and accommodation. For example, I can comfortably get from Canberra and Sydney and home again in a single day for meetings, without requiring accommodation. Moving to a regional location would not make sense in terms of time, travel and accommodation costs for members. It also makes sense to have research, management, compliance and administration staff co-located in Sydney, given that the vast majority of recreational anglers (and hence fishing effort) is in Sydney and immediate surrounds.

I understand that the Cronulla location costs very little to run and maintain since recent upgrades and modernisation. To decentralise and relocate functions will mean the additional costs of construction or hire of premises and facilities which the Government already has in place at Cronulla (money down the drain). As well as construction and relocation costs, the costs of redundancy payments, rehiring and retraining costs could be a substantial impost to the state's finances.

The loss of expertise of management, compliance, research and administrative staff who cannot or choose not to relocate could put at risk the Department's ability to satisfy its responsibilities under the Act. The loss of years of knowledge and experience of staff who cannot or choose not to relocate would seriously impact on existing and future programs. This applies to research, compliance and management areas, as well as administrative functions.

For the reasons above, I ask the Inquiry to recommend the Government reverses its decision to close Cronulla and commit to Cronulla as the home of fisheries management, research and administration into the future.

Regards,

<< << << << <<

Shane Jasprizza  
 President  
 Capital Region Fishing Alliance

GPO Box 1114  
 Canberra ACT 2601

[www.crfa.org.au](http://www.crfa.org.au)  
[info@crfa.org.au](mailto:info@crfa.org.au)