

**Submission
No 56**

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

Name: Mr Robert Audsley

Date received: 29/07/2012

cronullafisheries - Fw: CRONULLA CLOSURE MK 1.doc

From: "robert audsley"
To: "Cathryn CUMMINS" <cronullafisheries@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 7/29/2012 4:32 PM
Subject: Fw: CRONULLA CLOSURE MK 1.doc

Dear Ms CUMMINS

Please find attached a copy of an email which I sent to Ms HODGKINSON and others in November last year. Ms Hodgkinson did not reply to this email but several of the addressees did.

I am sending it to you as a submission for the Senate select inquiry into the closure of Cronulla and I sincerely hope that it will reach you in time and be considered.

Yours Sincerely

Robert A AUDSLEY

----- Original Message -----

From: robert audsley

To: Katrina HODGKINSON

Cc: Albert MARTINEZ ; JIM HARNWELL ; Barry O'FARRELL Premier ; Steven WHAN MP ; Carmel TEBBUTT MP ; Mark SPEAKMAN MP ; Adrian PICCOLI MP ; Clover MOORE MP ; Tania MIHAILUK MP ; Melanie GIBBONS MP ; Graham ANNESLEY MP ; Cherie BURTON MP ; Mark COURE MP ; Lee EVANS MP ; John FLOWERS MP ; Dunsan GAY MLC ; Stan KONSTANTARAS

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2011 9:21 AM

Subject: CRONULLA CLOSURE MK 1.doc

Ms Katrina Hodgkinson
 Minister Primary Industries

Mr Robert A AUDSLEY
 126 Kingswood Road
 ENGADINE
 N.S.W. 2233
 Email ra030725@bigpond.net.au

CC: Ref Attached List

25th November 2011

PROTEST OVER PLAN TO DECIMATE N.S.W. FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Dear Ms Hodgkinson.

I am writing to you to beseech you to reconsider your ill-conceived plan to close and destroy Cronulla Fisheries .

Firstly I will properly introduce myself. I retired in 2000 and being an avid Recreational Fisherman I sought a means of getting kids outdoors and putting back into fishing some of the pleasures I had got out of it over 60 years. I approached Cronulla Fisheries and became the first Saltwater Fishcare Volunteer recruited in NSW. I joined this excellent program in 2001 and to date have accrued about 5,000 hours of Voluntary Service. In 2006 RECFISH Australia awarded me the Inaugural Fishcare Volunteer of Australia Award out of about 1200 Fishcare Volunteers across Australia. Since 2003 I have been elected Volunteer Leader for the Southern Sydney Region every year at our AGM. I currently seek and co-ordinate activities for about 35 active Volunteers for the Southern Sydney Region, many of whom have well over 1,000 hours of service to Fishcare accrued. .

These activities include:

- * Taking groups from local High Schools every week on their "Fishing for Sport" excursions.
- * Attending Primary Schools over 6 weekly sessions to impart the "Get Hooked It's Fun to Fish" Program.
- * Running Fishing Clinics during School Holidays and on the final weeks of the "Get Hooked"

programs.

- * Putting Cub-Scouts Packs through their Fishing badges.
- * Giving Rock-Fishing Safety talks to various ethnic Community groups.
- * Giving Rules and Regulations talks to Amateur Fishing Clubs.
- * Attending Boat Shows, Easter Shows, Camping and Caravan Shows , Ocean Watch Days , School Fetes and a multitude of other public events with our Information trailer "Bluey" to inform the public about Recreational Fishing in NSW.
- * We also run Specialized Fishing days for Kids with Disabilities, Quality Kids and Wayward and Deprived Kids groups.
- * Assisting Fisheries Staff in the Sydney Harbour Dioxin and Sydney Harbour Ferry Wharves information runs.

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The above list is only some of the multitude of activities we are involved in and they are ALL done on a VOLUNTARY basis. The vast majority of these activities are carried out in the Greater Sydney Region as this is where 70% of NSW Recreational Fisherfolk live.

To carry out these activities we Fishcare Volunteers need to interact with several Fisheries Staff on a regular basis and many others on an Ad-hoc basis. Currently ALL these Staff are based at Cronulla in the Recreational Division and are easily reachable. We also have a storeroom full of equipment and informational material at Cronulla which we need to access, use and maintain weekly (Rods, reels, kits, terminal tackle, pamphlets, booklets , handouts, etc.

Also we have dedicated parking areas for "Bluey" and the boats which we use on a regular basis..

We have been told that these Staff, essential to our goals, are to be relocated in various centres well away from Sydney such as Nowra, Port Stephens and Coffs Harbour to name a few. If this is indeed the case then the Fishcare activities will be seriously curtailed and you will lose the synergy that comes from a close-knit group working together. We will also need your Department to provide a local readily accessible storage area for all our equipment plus trailers and boats that we regularly use in the Greater Sydney Region.

At present most of the cost of running the Fishcare Volunteer Program is met by the Recreational Fishing Trust. However your decision to relocate staff and close Cronulla will not only dramatically increase these costs but will create an administrative nightmare for all involved.

Many of the Volunteers I look after in the Southern Sydney Region have intimated to me that if this closure goes ahead and they have to do additional UNPAID travel and duties then they will quit the program altogether. If this occurs across the Greater Sydney Region will mean the end of the "Get Hooked" program; no more Fishing Clinics, no more "Fishing for Sport activities , no more visible Fishcare presence at Fetes or Shows etc and Thousands of kids missing out on the opportunity to learn to fish.

This proposed closure and decimation will also alienate a huge majority of the over 1,000,000 Recreational Fishers across the Sydney region who will remember it at the next State Election.

So PLEASE Ms Hodgkinson if you have any sense of empathy and regard for the thousands of people you are going to adversely affect and deprive by this inexplicable unjustifiable decision then swallow your pride and reverse it before it is too late.

Yours Sincerely

Robert AUDSLEY

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ADDITIONAL ADDRESSEE LIST FOR
PROTEST OVER PLAN TO DECIMATE N.S.W. FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

Mr Graham ANNESLEY Member for MIRANDA
Minister for Sport & Recreation

Ms Cherie BURTON Member for KOGARAH

Mr Mark COURE Member for OATLEY

Mr Lee EVANS Member for HEATHCOTE

Mr John FLOWERS Member for ROCKDALE

Mr Duncan GAY Minister for PORTS

Ms Melanie GIBBONS Member for MENAI

Mr Barry O'FARRELL Premier

Ms Tania MIHAILUK Shadow Minister for VOLUNTEERS

Ms Clover MOORE Member for SYDNEY

Mr Adrian PICCOLI Minister for EDUCATION

Mr Mark SPEAKMAN Member for CRONULLA

Ms Carmel TEBBUTT Shadow Minister for Education

Mr Steven WHAN Shadow Minister for PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Mr Albert MARTINEZ Editor St George & Sutherland Shire LEADER

Ms Carol PROVAN Mayor Sutherland Shire Council

Mr Jim HARNWELL Editor FISHING WORLD MAGAZINE

Mr Stan KONSTANTARAS RECFISH AUSTRALIA