

Supplementary  
Submission  
No 42a

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 26/09/2012

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Partially Confidential

24 September 2012

The Director  
Select Committee on Cronulla Fisheries  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

### **Closure of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence (Inquiry)**

As a supplement to my previous submission to the Inquiry I wish to put forward the following comments and questions to the Inquiry members.

Minister Katrina Hodgkinson in answering a question at the Inquiry on 10 September 2012 when asked if staff should be asked if the centre stay open, stated "Do you honestly think that it would be fair on them to do a backflip on this". ("them" are her much valued staff of Cronulla Fisheries centre). I consider that her comments are both hypocritical and presumptive.

Regardless that I have now found alternate employment from working at the Centre and now travelling to Sydney CBD, (adding to the congested transport system). if the right opportunity presented itself, I would return to work at the Cronulla Fisheries Centre. What isn't fair is that Minister Hodgkinson has ignored outcry from fisheries stakeholders that the decision to close Cronulla Fisheries Centre be reversed, but regardless of the outcry has proceeded with this ill conceived closure.

On other issues mentioned at the Inquiry I would also like to point out, that it is my understanding, that of the "37 staff" who have opted to be relocated, more than 20 are to be relocated in Sydney. The statement about being given 12 months notice for a possible relocation is also contrived. I and other staff were told numerous different locations in the last 12 months, from an initial choice of either Coffs Harbour or Nowra, then to Merimbula, then Huskinson, then any somewhere between Wollongong and Merimbula, then, maybe even at Caringbah/Taren Point, no staff at all to go Wollongong. When a real estate agent thrust a building to lease upon the Government in Nowra, the "selling" point to some staff was that it had new carpet. (what that has to do with suitable office space is beyond me) So it was not really known until July 2012 what specific area/town staff were destined to go to. The dates to relocated also changed. From the initial 18 months, from March 2013 to May 2012 to February 2013 to October 2012 and then to January 2013. How can one make well informed decisions that affect your family with ever changing and deceptive advice from the bureaucrats in charge of the relocation process. This is perverse in its nature and amounts to bullying and gross neglect of the wellbeing of the staff at CFC.

In regard to fairness, I also question the criteria used in relocating staff. Senior Officers appear to have "protected" themselves from being relocated out of Sydney, being separated from the staff they are responsible for. Or even questionable

employment practices by employing their spouse in the relocated centres in newly created higher graded positions that have existed in Cronulla.

I would like to question Katrina Hodgkinson's interpretation of the Government's "Decade of Decentralisation" policy. The NSW National Party targeted regional infrastructure at its campaign launch in Dubbo in January 2011. Roads and transport, health and economic development were the priorities highlighted by the leader of the Nationals, Andrew Stoner described the changes as a move to enrich regional NSW, and begin a "decade of decentralisation".

He stated that "I will also have a new portfolio as Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services, so that we can deliver these policies to build our hospitals, fix our transport networks, secure our water and get the best possible education for our kids."

Why then the priority given to close Cronulla Fisheries Centre? How does closing Cronulla Fisheries Centre achieve Mr Stoners' and the Governments' policy? Are policies interpretations altered to suit the circumstance?

The decision to close Cronulla Fisheries Centre must be reversed to retain the best possible and economic service to benefit all people of New South Wales.

Please contact me if for any clarification or other information is required on 'phone

(Please keep this submission partially confidential (no name, address/ or 'phone number to be published)).

Yours sincerely