

**Submission  
No 16**

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

**Name:** Mr Martin Jackson

**Date received:** 25/07/2012

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Dear committee members,

I am pleased to be given the opportunity to express my concerns about the closure of Cronulla Fisheries centre of excellence (CFRCoE). I have previously written to Minister for Primary Industries and to Minister for Heritage, and in both cases I didn't feel my objections were properly addressed. I am a member of Staff at the affected facility working on the Lobster research and monitoring project, and a primary producer growing Sydney rock oysters. Listed below are some of the reasons that I believe the decision to close CFRCoE is wrong and if possible should be stopped.

**Impact on the heritage values of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre**

CFRCoE is the "birthplace of fisheries science in Australia". It has a long and distinguished history of scientific contribution to Australia and should be regarded and maintained by NSW as a national treasure. Its significance has been recognised with its heritage listing for its unbroken association with state and commonwealth fisheries research since 1904. CFRCoE is considered as the "Heart of Fisheries" by management, research, compliance, and many recreational & commercial stakeholders in NSW. This decision is in violation of the heritage act 1997 and the Burra Charter. The Burra Charter calls for a cautious approach to be taken when dealing with matters of cultural significance. The decision to close CFRCoE is neither cautious nor well thought out. Removing the staff will end the unbroken association with scientific research at the site and in doing so will fail in its efforts to conserve the cultural significance of the site.

**Loss of the scientific expertise held by the staff who cannot relocate from Cronulla and the implications for sustainable fisheries management**

Most of the staff at this site have indicated that they will not be able to transfer out of Sydney. Since the announcement of the closure two of the most talented hard working young scientist have left. Many of the more senior scientists will leave. This closure will ensure that NSW will lose centuries of scientific experience and expertise in this very specialized field. NSW's fish stocks are some of the most sustainably managed in the world. This will no longer be the case if you allow NSW to lose some of the finest fisheries scientists in Australia.

**Impact on staff and their families of the closure and the relocation**

On a personal note I have been employed at CFRCoE for five years, pursuing my career in marine science. I live in Bulli which is a commute of one hour which I find acceptable given my passion and commitment for my job. The research on the eastern rock lobster that I do is based in Sydney and will remain so. The problem here is I'm being asked to relocate to Mosman Sydney which will make my daily commute over 4 hours and 166 km. Because I am to be relocated to a Sydney location I am ineligible for a redundancy. I am unwilling to move my wife and two young children and as a result I will lose my job with no compensation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission, I am eagerly awaiting your findings. If you require further information don't hesitate to call

Yours Sincerely,  
Martin Jackson