

**Submission  
No 57**

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

**Name:** Mr Rodney M Hulme

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**TAREN POINT  
DEVELOPMENTS P/L**

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17<sup>th</sup> July, 2012

The Director  
Select Committee on Cronulla Fisheries  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Fax: (02) 9230 2981

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re:                    Submission for the Inquiry into the closure of**  
***Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence***

I would firstly state that Taren Point Developments P/L has no vested interest, nor prospect of future advantage derived from the continuation of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence in its current location or function.

I would however draw your attention to the negative impact of its proposed dismantling on the Community, the Commercial and Recreational fishing fraternities and the experienced and highly qualified personnel directly and peripherally attached to the Centre.

The CFRC has successfully and productively supported and enhanced our understanding, protection and control of fish and marine life environments and in particular in the highly active Sydney Region. This is largely due to its logically located facilities in Cronulla. The Centre is also the hub of interactive scientific knowledge between many Sydney region based learning institutions, both benefitting and providing.

A great wealth of experience and knowledge in this field will be lost as many of the fisheries personnel will not relocate to the less established and poorer equipped regional facilities. The State of the Art facilities at Cronulla would provide optimal and uninterrupted function whereas upgrading regional sites to this level will further burden the community purse unnecessarily.

Additionally milking the tax payers purse will be the travel and relocating expenses for either staff or visiting consultants and the costs to return to Sydney for conferences and seminars. Would it not be more cost effective to employ and train new personnel in the regional centres where the decentralizing is aimed. Isn't decentralizing about creating opportunities in areas of need? Not breaking a well functioning establishment and dispersing the parts to those areas which really need the support from a solid central facility instead of a fractional and disconnected group.

How many times do we endure the ill informed and unjustifiably expensive "Desalination Plant" decisions from self absorbed, politically motivated representatives. The Cronulla Fisheries proposed closure is another such poorly researched and extremely unpopular choice. Perhaps the Minister directly responsible for this proposal could get 20,000 signatures from supporters of the closure of the Cronulla Centre to justify the action, it may then start to make sense to all who oppose it so vehemently.

Yours Sincerely  
Rodney M Hulme  
Director