

**Submission
No 37**

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

Organisation: Bass Sydney Fishing Club Inc.

Date received: 29/07/2012



BASS SYDNEY Fishing Club Inc.

BRANCH OF NATIVE FISH AUSTRALIA

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PATRON Dr Wayne Erskine PhD



Affiliated with
"The Council of Freshwater Anglers"

To: Legislative Council Select Committee on Cronulla Fisheries
NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney 2000

29th July 2012

Subject: CLOSURE OF CRONULLA FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTRE

Dear Honourable Ministers,

I write on behalf of Bass Sydney Fishing Club in relation to the proposed closure of NSW Fisheries' Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence. Bass Sydney is a fishing club with long and close ties with NSW Fisheries. We are a club of keen bass anglers whose primary aim is the betterment of native fish and bass in particular, guided by strong environmental principles. We are involved in advocating for fishways, work with catchment management authorities, Greening Australia, NPWS, local councils and directly with bush/riparian regeneration.

We have been working with representatives from Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre for years, most notably since 1988 when we conducted the first BassCatch on the Hawkesbury-Nepean River. This program has since been adopted on around 20 rivers in NSW. The BassCatch program is part of the Angler Catch Database program and we are concerned that this, along with other valuable scientific programs, will be lost if the Fisheries Research Centre is closed down.

As recreational anglers, we are concerned that the closure is a capitulation to political pressure by professional fishers to the detriment of recreational anglers statewide. The central location of Cronulla and its proximity to a large population of recreational fishers allows it to represent all stakeholders in as equitable a way as possible.

As citizens of NSW, we are upset that the decision represents an unfathomable waste of funds in closing a perfectly good facility and having to spend millions of dollars to build a similar facility elsewhere. If the money is not spent in building another similar facility, the only outcome is a reduction of the State's knowledge base and fisheries programs to the detriment of the population of NSW. The group of scientists and other Fisheries staff will not all be willingly relocated thus also having the potential of losing intellectual resources from the State.

This decision can be viewed as a cynical, short term political move favouring a few to the detriment of the vast majority. This decision must be stopped.

Yours sincerely,

HS Tham
President
Bass Sydney Fishing Club Inc.