

**Submission
No 5**

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

Name: Mr Graham Hunt

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Committee Chairman
Select Committee on Cronulla Fisheries Closure
Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC,

**Inquiry into the closure of the
Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence**

The Fisheries Research Centre functions and staff are to be relocated to other regional centres as announced by the Minister of Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson MP in October 2011. Some of the functions and staff will be transferred to the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) at Chowder Bay, Mosman.

The Minister of Primary Industries, Ms Katrina Hodgkinson MP, said in her press release 17 May 2012

“Today we celebrate Sydney Harbour becoming home to a truly world class facility and I am proud that the NSW Government is a partner in this cutting edge centre. The research conducted at SIMS will make a major contribution to marine science that will see benefits stretch well beyond the shores of Sydney Harbour”

The Cronulla Fisheries Centre should therefore be included within the functions of SIMS, since being located on Port Hacking, research at this location would complement the Sydney Harbour marine science research.

The Cronulla Fisheries Centre site is of national and state heritage significance being the first marine investigation site in Australia from 1904. The centre has had continual association with the NSW and Commonwealth Government Fisheries.

The land Lots 1129, 1187, 257 Deposited Plan 752064 is Heritage Listed under the NSW Heritage Act 1977 – State Heritage Register No 01011 Govt. Gaz. 2 April 1999 No 27 Fol 1546 and is shown under Sutherland Shire Council Local Environmental Plan Govt Gaz. 15 December 2000 No 162 Fol 13336 for Special Uses.

Any change to the Sutherland Shire Council LEP 2000 zoning would require a development application to the Council for community consultation and approval by the Council before any site re-development would be permitted.

Aboriginal Middens (three) are located on the site and have an archaeological significance and potential. The land is owned by the State of NSW as Crown Land and is subject to a Reserve under Part 5 Crown Lands Act 1989. There are restrictions on transfer and other dealings with the Reserve under that Act which may require consent of the Minister.

Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre is an important centre for Wild Fisheries Research and Fisheries Management for the management of the commercial and recreational wild harvest fisheries. The heritage listed Cronulla Fisheries include the former 1904 hatchery building, boat shed and fish pond and aboriginal middens which must be preserved for the community.

A Petition Signed by 10, 000 or More Persons calling for the reversal of the decision of the Minister for Primary Industries to close the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by Mark Speakman SC MP, Member for Cronulla, on 19 October 2011.

Yours faithfully

Graham Hunt
Archivist ASA (P)