

**Submission  
No 58**

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

**Name:** Mr Stephen Ives

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Saturday, 28 July 2012

The Director,

Select Committee on Cronulla Fisheries

Parliament House

Macquarie St.

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

In recent months I have been following the events surrounding the proposed closure of Cronulla Fisheries Centre. I am appalled at this decision, especially with what has been going on behind closed doors. I believe I live in a wonderful country with a great democratic society. However, I feel in this case Cronulla Fisheries has not been properly represented. That is firstly and foremost having a proper consultation process between related MP's and the staff at the centre. I feel Ms. Katrina Hodgkinson, the Minister for Primary Industries has been, at best very evasive and sly in promoting her case for decentralising this research centre. I believe this is a misguided solution.

Most fishing (commercial & recreational) takes place close to and within large coastal cities like Sydney. Not only at sea but throughout waterways like lakes, rivers, creeks and estuaries are central to good health of marine and water life within NSW and nationally. This good health can only be monitored and regulated close to home to keep not only fisherman honest but keeping waterways clean and clear of pollutants like chemical spills into the ocean and its effects on marine life from industrial chemical plants and farming practices.

I have no problem if the decentralisation process was fair, equitable and on trial with a proper appraisal period to see if the proposal is sound in judgement. However, those MP's related to its closure are not experts in fish/marine life. Therefore, I question whether they can make a sound decision based on a lack of information. I believe any sensible business plan would involve a proper transparent feasibility study/impact study before a good quality decision can be made. That is prior to decentralisation. This is a good and common business procedure and to do anything else is fool hardy and illustrates reckless management/ leadership skills. This is showing the current liberal/national party as incompetent in this issue.

As you probably will be aware feasibility studies can only be successful after extensive research, investigation and local and international community intervention has been processed. Along with financial terms which are agreed upon.

Cronulla Fisheries, is a central hub economically and ecologically and a modern state of the art facility. It is world class in its location and has considerable world renown. I feel this closure is an egotistical exercise for some of these MP's to flex their political muscle by promoting their election promise over good common sense and the common people. The very same people that vote them in or out, as may happen. As I have met many people opposed to this decision making I wish a fair trial and if given this will live with the consequences.

Could I therefore ask you two gentlemen to consider asking for the closure of Cronulla Fisheries to be put on hold until a thorough inquiry/investigation has been undertaken.

Yours Faithfully,

Stephen Ives

(Concerned NSW Citizen)