

# Fish farm a first

By Ilana Stillitano

THE University of Sydney has proposed a cutting edge research facility at Cobbitty that would see it become a world leader in food production research.

Plans for the university's greenhouse development — which would pioneer new sustainable agriculture and aquaculture technologies — have been lodged with Camden Council.

The 90m x 150m greenhouse would be used to breed barramundi and later expanded to include Murray and sleepy cod, and golden and spangled perch.

The fish would be housed in freshwater tanks and fed commercial fish pellets until they reach a harvestable size, which would take about six months.

They would then be sold live or killed humanely on site.

About 2000 kilograms of killed fish would be stored on site but there would be no odour, the application said.

Above the tanks would be salad and herb crops. Water used to irrigate the crops would flow back into the fish

## Plant breeding on show

THE Plant Breeding Institute in Cobbitty will hold its inaugural open day this Friday from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

The free event will give people a behind-the-scenes look at the institute.

There will be information booths on courses and careers for prospective students, research highlights, glasshouse and field tours, demonstrations and a produce fair.

A University of Sydney spokesman said there would be a free barbecue lunch, face

painting, roving performers and a display of 100 years of world-changing agriculture.

"There will be half-hour talks and question time on world-changing issues from our international academic experts," he said.

"Locals can also discover what's in their garden, why we use biodiesel, why there is so much research on climate change, if we use genetically modified crops and more."

**RSVP:** [sydney.edu.au/agriculture](http://sydney.edu.au/agriculture).

tanks and effluent produced by the fish farm would be used to fertilise the agriculture production.

The university already has funding for a research project that involves breeding barramundi for "optimum growth and flavour".

The proposed facility would enable "cutting edge" research between the university and Urban Ecological

Systems, operators of sustainable food production methods.

The fish farm would be built next to the Plant Breeding Institute in Cobbitty Road.

About 21,000 fingerlings would be delivered to the farm each month in insulated boxes. About 10 deliveries are expected each week.

Plans can be viewed at the council until next Friday.