

Regional Councils' Annual Reports for 2020

(A compilation of the annual reports from the Regional Councils.)

Key Points

- Under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995* each Regional Council must present an annual report of its proceedings and the exercise of its general functions for inclusion in the Standing Committee's report to Synod for that year
- These reports are in addition to the annual reports prepared by the Regional Councils and tabled at the Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*

Background

1. Under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995*, each Regional Council must present to the Standing Committee an annual report of its proceedings and the exercise of its general functions under clause 6 in sufficient time each year to enable the Standing Committee to include the report in the report for that year of the Standing Committee to Synod.
2. The general functions of the Regional Councils under clause 6 are –
 - (a) to carry out or assist in carrying out any resolutions passed by the Synod or the Standing Committee and referred to it for implementation;
 - (b) to develop ministry strategies in the Region;
 - (c) to assess applications for grants in the Region made or referred to it;
 - (d) to make grants or loans from money (consistent with any trusts on which that money may be held) available to it for distribution or for lending;
 - (e) to accept gifts and grants;
 - (f) to raise and expend money for any purpose connected with ministry in the Region;
 - (g) to employ persons for any purpose connected with ministry within the Region, and to dismiss any person so employed;
 - (h) to manage and control any endowment held for the Region as a whole;
 - (i) to discuss matters affecting the Region and to disseminate information in the Region;
 - (j) to make recommendations to the Archbishop about alterations to regional boundaries; and
 - (k) to exercise such other functions as the Synod or the Standing Committee may from time to time prescribe.
3. The following are the reports from the Regional Councils for 2020 for the purposes of clause 9(2). These reports are in addition to the annual reports prepared by the Regional Councils and tabled at the Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*.

Georges River Regional Council

4. The Regional Council had three meetings in 2020 due to COVID-19. At the meetings, the Rector of the parish was invited to give a Bible study and then report on the activities within the parish. This gave the Council a good indication of the challenges facing the parish and highlighted that different strategies had to be implemented to face some of the challenges of a changing society.
5. After a number of years planning the John 3:16 Mission, COVID did not allow much of what was planned to go ahead. And the uncertainties surrounding COVID meant a pause in strategic planning.
6. The Council continues to strategize and plan in terms of how best to utilise funds for ongoing gospel work in the region.

Northern Regional Council

7. The Council met twice during the year, once via zoom. Reverends Armstrong and Wood were elected to the Council for the first time in October 2020. One meeting was held after their appointment. The Council also passed a resolution in February 2020 by circular resolution to which all members at the time participated and agreed.
8. Our meetings enabled discussion of a range of matters relating to ministry strategies in the region, including consideration of ways the Council might assist parish ministry in line with the Diocesan Mission.
9. The coronavirus pandemic restricted the Council's ability to meet face to face and to undertake a range of activities that it had planned or usually would have undertaken, such as an annual meeting of region clergy.

South Sydney Regional Council

10. The South Sydney Regional Council serves the South Sydney Region of the Diocese of Sydney which includes the Inner West, Sydney City and Eastern Suburbs Mission Areas. The South Sydney Region also includes the parish of Lord Howe Island and the Church of England on Norfolk Island.
11. Only one Council meeting was held in 2020. Further consultation occurred via phone and email.
12. In 2020, the main activities of the Council either by way of report or action was as follows –
 - Receiving reports from, and providing approved funding for, the Church of England on Norfolk Island (\$25,000), Living Water Indigenous Ministry (\$12,500), and the Parish of South Sydney (\$10,000).
 - Distributing to the Parish the Synod Grant for Lord Howe Island (\$21,000).
 - Gave consideration to, and approval of, the amalgamation of the parishes of Watsons Bay and Vaucluse/Rose Bay. Additionally, the Council gave approval for the newly formed parish of South Head to change from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2 of the Parish Administration Ordinance.
 - Gave detailed consideration to the proposal that Grace City Church become a recognised church. The Council determined that Grace City Church had satisfied the criteria for recognition, and accordingly noted that it would become a recognised church from 1 January 2021.
 - Reviewed progress on the appointment of clergy to vacant parishes and various property development proposals.

Western Sydney Regional Council

13. The main committees are the Executive Committee, the Ordinance Review Panel and the Architectural Panel.
14. The Council met on 3 occasions during 2020 via Zoom.
15. The main areas of consideration included assisting parishes with a response to COVID-19 lockdowns and related matters, parish vacancies and new appointments, strategic partnerships between parishes, formation of a new recognized church, building projects in the region, assisting a parish in negotiations with ASC over property use and encouraging some ministers into the Reach Australia development program.

Wollongong Regional Council

16. The Wollongong Regional Council met twice during 2020 on the evenings of 16 June and 8 September. The meetings were held in Wollongong with each meeting preceded by a meal. The scheduled meeting in March was cancelled due to COVID

17. Bishop Peter Hayward and the Regional Council worked closely to further support ministry across the Region. This included:
- financial support for the ministries at Leppington
 - financial support with subsidised rectories at Sussex Inlet and Leppington
 - financial support with subsidised demountable at Helensburgh and Denham Court
 - meeting with and support of Mission Area leaders
 - support for Rectors
 - specific regional training for Rectors and Wardens
 - support for a regional mission, sadly truncated by COVID
 - ongoing support for ESL English classes
 - ESL classes were delivered in 16 Parishes across the Region.
 - Support through provision of office space for the Regional Anglicare ESL Coordinator, Mrs Sue Radkovic
 - ongoing support for Indigenous Ministries
 - Pastor Michael Duckett linked with St Peter's Campbelltown in partnership with the SAIPMC.
 - Mr Phil Miles linked with All Saints Nowra in partnership with the SAIPMC
 - provision of advice and support through the impact of the pandemic.
18. During 2020 funding from the Region's assets was allocated to the specific ministry in the South West growth sector.

Ministry	Purpose	Allocation	Total
Wilton Junction	Church Plant	\$70,000	
Leppington	Church Plant	\$35,000	\$105,000

19. The Council received reports from Bishop Hayward and the Assistant to the Bishop at each meeting.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

DANIEL GLYNN
Diocesan Secretary

26 November 2021