
General Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1959

No. 15a, 1959.

AN ORDINANCE to authorise assessments from time to time to provide contributions to the expenses of the Synod and the Diocesan Registry and such other purposes as Synod may determine not otherwise provided for.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make better provision for defraying the necessary expenses of Synod and of the Diocesan Registry and of purposes connected therewith the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it by the Constitutions for the Management and Good Government of the Church of England within the State of New South Wales and of all other powers vested in it ordains and rules as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the "General Assessment Authorisation Ordinance 1959":

2. The Registry and Synod Assessment Ordinance of 1895 as amended is hereby repealed, PROVIDED THAT such repeal shall not affect anything done in pursuance thereof or any liabilities incurred thereunder.

3. The Synod shall from time to time as hereinafter provided assess the amount to be contributed annually by each Parish, Provisional Parish and Provisional District in the Diocese at present existing or which may hereafter be formed for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Synod and of the Diocesan Registry and providing for any other votes of money as authorised from time to time by the Synod.

4. For the purposes of this Ordinance the Rector and the Churchwardens of each Parish and the Curate-in-Charge and the Churchwardens of each Provisional Parish and Provisional District shall forward to the Standing Committee by the 30th June in each year a Return in a form to be prescribed by Standing Committee of the gross receipts and allowable deductions (calculated to the nearer pound) of each such Parish Provisional Parish and Provisional District during the preceding financial year.

5. Prior to the next ordinary session of Synod and thereafter prior to each succeeding ordinary session of Synod the Standing Committee shall prepare a Statement showing an estimate of the amount required for the Synod expenses and the maintenance of the Registry and such other purposes as the Standing Committee is of opinion ought to be included for purposes connected with Diocesan activities and obligations together with the existing and probable annual receipts from any source other than Assessments through the Registry and the sums to be contributed annually by each of the said Parishes, Provisional Parishes and Provisional Districts based upon an assessment at such rate and in such manner as will in the aggregate produce the amount (calculated to the

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nearer pound) to be contributed annually by the Parishes, Provisional Parishes and Provisional Districts for the purposes aforesaid as determined by Synod upon adopting the said estimate or any modification thereof as so determined from time to time PROVIDED THAT in the case of such Parishes, Provisional Parishes and Provisional Districts as have not made complete returns by the 30th June the said income shall be estimated by Standing Committee PROVIDED FURTHER that in the case of Provisional Parishes and Provisional Districts the rate of the assessment shall be one half of that adopted in the case of Parishes.

6. The said assessment subject to the power of Standing Committee to estimate the same as herein provided shall be computed upon the net receipts determined by reference to the return mentioned in Clause 4 hereof.

7. A printed copy of the Statement referred to in Clause 5 of this Ordinance shall be forwarded by post or otherwise by Standing Committee to each member of Synod and to the Churchwardens of each Parish and Provisional Parish and to the Curate-in-Charge and Churchwardens of each Provisional District in the Diocese not less than fourteen days before the first day in each Ordinary Session of Synod.

8. The said Statement shall be laid upon the table of Synod by the Standing Committee on the first day of each ordinary session of Synod and a Notice of Motion for leave to introduce an Ordinance (hereinafter called the General Assessment Ordinance) to provide an assessment based thereon shall be given.

9. Subject to the provisions of clause 11, hereof, the sum to be contributed by the Parishes Provisional Parishes and Provisional Districts for the purposes aforesaid shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of such General Assessment Ordinance.

10. Contributions under any such General Assessment Ordinance shall be held to be due on the first day of April in the year next succeeding the year in which such General Assessment Ordinance shall be passed and shall be paid by equal quarterly instalments to the Standing Committee payable respectively on or before the 15th days of June, September, December and March in each financial year.

11. A Parish, Provisional Parish or Provisional District which shall have lodged its Assessment Return by the 30th June may appeal against the amount assessed against it as hereinbefore provided. Such an appeal shall be lodged within one month after the passing of such General Assessment Ordinance and shall take the form of an objection (giving the grounds of such objection) and shall be addressed to the Standing Committee of Synod which

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may determine the appeal in its discretion. PROVIDED THAT where the assessment return has been lodged after the 30th June but at least twenty-eight days before the first day of the ordinary session of Synod such appeal may be lodged on payment of Ten pounds (£10) to the Standing Committee which may determine the appeal in its discretion PROVIDED FURTHER that if in the opinion of the Standing Committee there are reasonable grounds for considering that the net receipts in any assessment return have been incorrectly stated it may require the furnishing of a further or amended Return and may make such amended assessment thereon as it may think fit and such amended assessment shall be substituted for the amount payable as set out in the relevant General Assessment Ordinance passed by the Synod in respect to such Parish, Provisional Parish or Provisional District which shall thereupon be advised of any such change.

12. The Standing Committee shall have control of all expenditure on account of the Diocesan Registry and of the Synod in all cases in which such control has not been exercised by Synod itself.

13. The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to the Ecclesiastical District of Saint Andrew as if it were a Parish and to the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew as if they were Churchwardens.

14. For the purpose of this Ordinance—

(1) "Gross Receipts" means—

Receipts during the financial year covered by the return from all sources irrespective of the purpose for which they will be, or have been, used.

PROVIDED THAT where receipts in any one Fund or Account include Funds transferred (or paid) from another branch church or account within the Parish Provisional Parish or Provisional District, the amount of such transfer shall be excluded for the purposes of the return from the fund or account to which it has been transferred.

(2) "Allowable Deductions" means—

(a) Monies paid to Missionary Societies, other Extra-Parochial Bodies and Poor relief.

(b) Assessments for the financial year covered by the return paid to the Diocesan Registry by the prescribed dates for payment.

(c) Loans received and interest paid on loans and bank overdrafts.

(d) Expenses incurred in Trading.

(e) Promotion expenses.

(f) Testimonials to Retiring Clergy and like payments provided the amount so claimed does not exceed the amount shown in receipts for this purpose.

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- (g) Single gifts by individual donors of £250 or more for the purposes of Capital expenditure on buildings or land and all legacies.
 - (h) Any individual or family gift to the value of £25 or more to defray the full cost of a specific article for use in church, hall, rectory or grounds.
 - (i) Amounts received by way of grants from the funds of the Home Mission Society or the Centennial Church Extension Fund or the Anglican Building Crusade.
 - j) Cost of printing parish paper or £300 whichever is the lesser amount.
 - (k) The sum of £100 for each centre in the Parish, Provisional Parish or Provisional District as the case may be other than the principal Church where services have been held regularly throughout the previous twelve months ending 31st March in a building belonging to the Church of England licensed for that purpose, PROVIDED FURTHER that where the assessable income of one such centre exceeds £300 no deduction under this subsection shall be allowed in respect of that centre.
- (3) Where interpretation of this clause may be required the interpretation shall be made by the Standing Committee.

PROVIDED THAT in respect of the first General Assessment Ordinance passed after the passing of this Ordinance the Return furnished shall be in accordance with the Instructions issued by the Standing Committee on 1st April, 1959 defining the receipts and allowable deductions.

I certify that the Ordinance as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as reported.

W. G. HILLIARD, Bishop,
Chairman of Committees.

We certify that this Ordinance was passed by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney this Twenty-second day of September, 1959.

W. L. J. HUTCHISON,
Secretary of Synod.
K. B. ROUGHLEY,
Deputy Secretary of Synod,

I assent to this Ordinance.

HUGH SYDNEY,
Archbishop.

23/9/1959.