

## Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Minchinbury to a parish

(A report of the Western Sydney Regional Council.)

### Proposal

1. A proposal was made to the Archbishop by the minister and wardens of the provisional parish of Minchinbury under clause 4(1)(b) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979 (the Ordinance).

### Support of the Western Sydney Regional Council

2. A meeting of the Western Sydney Regional Council held on 16 August 2012 considered the proposal under clause 5 of the Ordinance.

3. The Western Sydney Regional Council certifies that all procedural requirements under clauses 4 and 6 of the Ordinance have been complied with, and recommends that the Synod raise the status of Minchinbury to a parish.

### Parish Information

4. The provisional parish of Minchinbury, located in South Rooty Hill, serves the neighbouring suburbs of Minchinbury, South Rooty Hill and Old Mount Druitt.

5. On Saturday 11 November 1916 the Church of England church building St John the Evangelist, Mount Druitt, was opened and dedicated by the Archbishop of Sydney Dr J.C. Wright in Mount Druitt Road, Mount Druitt. In September 1967 St James, a newer larger building in the Mount Druitt district, was opened at 40 Halinda Street Whalan, and the two churches served the Mount Druitt area together.

6. The present Minchinbury Anglican building was opened and dedicated by the Most Reverend D.W.B Robinson, Archbishop of Sydney, on Sunday 25 October 1987, the congregation having outgrown the original building at Mount Druitt. The new Minchinbury Anglican continued to serve with St James, Whalan, as part of the same parish.

7. Minchinbury was able to achieve financial independence from St James in 1996, and in 2002 took the step in becoming a separate provisional parish. A church service launching the Anglican Provisional Parish of Minchinbury was held on Sunday 10 February, 2002, at which the Reverend James Davidson was appointed Curate-in-Charge. The loan repayment for the building at Minchinbury was completed in 2005.

8. In 2010, Minchinbury, St Clair and St Marys parishes developed the Outer West Ministry Co-operative as a method of giving the members of each congregation access to a wider pool of training and teaching resources. This training has served not only to encourage current members of these three churches, but has increased the opportunity for inviting non-church friends and family to these events.

9. Since 2008, average weekly attendance at Minchinbury has risen from 138 to 191 in 2011; an increase of nearly 40%. In the same period, total offertory has risen from \$116,466 for 2008 to \$186,455 for 2011; an increase of more than 60%.

10. At the present time, the parish staff consists of the senior minister David Mears, an associate minister Paul Hallam, a part-time associate (Family and Children's) minister Naomi Ireland and a Year 13 student Cassandra Vollmer.

11. The population of the Provisional Parish stands at approximately 15,000.

12. The current year regular Sunday attendance at Minchinbury is 198 (142 adults 56 children) as follows –

	Adults	Children
10am	83	41
6pm	59	15

### Particulars of Church property

13. Details of property held by the Anglican Church Property Trust upon trust for the Provisional Parish are as follows –

	Value of Land and Improvements
Church and Hall	\$1,104,000
Garage & Shed	\$15,000
Rectory	\$241,000
Portable Building	\$33,000

14. A portable building meeting room was added in 2011 through a Local Council Building Grant, and another is to be added this year also through an approved Local Council Building Grant.

#### **Summary of consolidated receipts and payments**

15. A summary of the financial position over the last three years and the budget for 2012 is set out below –

	2009	2010	2011	2012 Budget
<b>Receipts</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Offerories	169,850	185,533	196,844	194,955
Missions	786	301	9,841	
Rent/Interest	9,356	2,422	2,968	17,360
Grants (Uni. Ministry)			37,074	5,000*
Others	16,180	22,968	46,398	300
<b>Total</b>	196,172	211,224	284,125	217,615

	2009	2010	2011	2012 Budget
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Stipends/salaries	81,473	116,585	119,748	175,174
Cost Recovery	15,936	28,550	32,799	42,000
Printing & Stationary	7,257	6,718	8,548	7,000
Maintenance	14,353	10,157	45,857	6,000*
Electricity etc	37,379	49,161	39,948	18,000*
Other ministries	297		27,182	
<b>Total</b>	156,695	211,171	274,082	248,174

\* Grants are not included in 2012 budget above.

16. The parish has no outstanding debts.

17. The Bishop of Western Sydney and the Western Sydney Regional Council enthusiastically support this application and gives thanks to God for the dedication of the ministers, wardens, parish council and members of the parish for their faithfulness to God that has brought about this proposal.

#### **Recommendation**

18. The Western Sydney Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Minchinbury be reclassified as parish with effect from 1 January 2013.

For and behalf of the Western Sydney Regional Council.

IVAN LEE  
Regional Bishop

16 August 2012