

## **Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Shoalhaven Heads to a parish**

(A report of the Wollongong Regional Council.)

### **Proposal**

1. The minister and wardens of the provisional parish of Shoalhaven Heads propose under clause 4 of the Parishes Ordinance 1979 that the provisional parish be reclassified as a parish.
2. The various requirements for this proposal under clauses 4 and 6 of the Parishes Ordinance 1979 have been met and details of this follow.

### **Support of the Wollongong Regional Council**

3. On 8 May 2012 the Wollongong Regional Council resolved to support the request that the provisional parish of Shoalhaven Heads be classified as a parish under the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

### **Parish Information**

4. The provisional parish makes this proposal with enormous pleasure and a deep sense of the kindness of God to the small and weak. In the eighteen months since Shoalhaven Heads was created as a provisional parish, God has continued to bless its people and ministry.
5. The proposal is made with the full support of the minister, the wardens and parish council, along with the congregations as a whole, reflected in a motion to this effect that was adopted unanimously at the recent Annual General Meeting.
6. The story of the church of St Peter's is a testament to the parish-based, community-focused ethos of Anglican ecclesiology. The church may be small; it may gather in a small town – but each lost soul is precious. The church is enthusiastic about growing its ministries and reaching out to its neighbours. God has brought the church far, but they hope to go further yet in his service. The church prays that the Synod's approval as a full parish within the Diocese will spur them on to the next chapter of their life together.

### **Particulars of all church trust property**

7. The provisional parish has only the one church building, St Peter's, located at 128 Scott Street in Shoalhaven Heads. The church seats just over 100, and has an adjoining crying room. Attached are a small hall, a kitchen, and toilets.
8. There is an open block of land, and then the minister's residence at 126 Scott Street. This is a four bedroom home, with study, built to diocesan rectory standards and completed in 2009.
9. These properties are owned outright, with no debt owing.

### **An estimate of the number of households within the parish boundaries claiming Anglican affiliation**

10. The 2006 census recorded 2,844 individuals living in the township of Shoalhaven Heads, and a further 1,126 in the surrounding district, a total of 3,970. Data is not readily available for the parish boundaries, but within the town itself, 2006 census data indicates 819 families, 485 lone occupants, and 29 other households. 37% (1076) of the town's population described themselves as Anglicans.

### **An estimate of the size of the congregation**

11. The church has two congregations each Sunday morning, with an average total attendance of approximately 80 people. The level of attendance has remained fairly steady for the last five years, reflecting not so much a lack of growth as the number of brothers and sisters who have gone to glory. 48% of the local population are over the age of 55.
12. In recent times, the age balance in the congregations has shifted towards the town's pattern as the family service has grown to parity with the traditional service. In 2010, the church was able to begin a second age group for children's ministry on Sunday mornings, followed by a third age group in 2011. The church was also delighted to have finally launched this year the first youth group in its history, reaching almost entirely unchurched kids.

### **A summary of Shoalhaven Head's financial standing**

13. In the last twenty years, the offertory income has grown from \$15,000 to \$101,000, with the 2011 accounts showing an operating surplus of \$1,107. The provisional parish has at any given time somewhere between \$20,000 and \$30,000 held in its accounts, a portion of which is earmarked for capital development of its site. There are no long term liabilities.

14. The growth in offertory income has reflected an increased confidence in the provisional parish's common purpose, and in the context of the GFC is extremely encouraging.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Offertory Target</b>	<b>Offertory Actual</b>
2007	70,720	74,003
2008	87,500	83,389
2009	85,800	86,336
2010	95,000	91,302
2011	109,515	100,949

15. The provisional parish's 2011 financial statements show a net asset position of \$1,242,106.

16. The 2012 budget for the provisional parish includes a provision of \$15,000 towards the employment of an additional staff member towards the end of the year.

17. In accordance with Section 6 of the Ordinance the provisional parish over the previous financial year –

- Paid the minister according to minimum recommended stipend and provided the recommended travel allowance.
- Has paid all cost recoveries.
- Housed the minister in a diocesan standard residence.
- Is in a sound financial condition.

**Recommendation**

18. The Wollongong Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Shoalhaven Heads be reclassified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2013.

For and behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council

PETER HAYWARD  
*Regional Bishop*

TONY WILLIS  
*Assistant to the Bishop*

26 June 2012