

Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 2004

Explanatory Statement

Introduction

1. The Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 1995 (the "Ordinance") provided transitional provisions for the implementation of regionalisation and made consequential amendments to a number of ordinances. The Ordinance is printed on pages 545 to 555 inclusive of the 1996 Yearbook.
2. Under clause 9 of the Ordinance, the following ordinances are repealed with effect from 1 January 2005 -
 - St John's Provisional Cathedral Parramatta Ordinance 1969
 - St Michael's Provisional Cathedral Wollongong Ordinance 1969.
3. The effect of clause 9 is that St John's Parramatta and St Michael's Wollongong will cease to be Provisional Cathedrals on 1 January 2005.

Purpose of the Bill

4. The purpose of the bill is to extend from 1 January 2005 to 1 January 2010 the date upon which the ordinances referred to in 2 are repealed. If the bill is passed the status of St John's Parramatta and St Michael's Wollongong as provisional cathedrals will be maintained until 1 January 2010.
5. In its report on Regionalism (published on pages 532 to 539 inclusive of the 1996 Yearbook), the Standing Committee recognised that the effectiveness of regionalisation would be determined through time and experimentation. The Standing Committee said no structure adopted should be permanent and a review should be made in the year 2005, or earlier if circumstances require.
6. An initial review extending the status of the Provisional Cathedrals from 1 January 2000 to 1 January 2005 has already been undertaken with the passing of the Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 1998.

122 Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers

7. If the Synod and Archbishop decide that regionalisation should continue in its present form, then the long-term status of St John's Provisional Cathedral Parramatta and St Michael's Provisional Cathedral Wollongong will need to be decided. Both Provisional Cathedral Chapters have previously foreshadowed that they would promote ordinances to change the status of their respective Provisional Cathedrals to Regional Cathedrals. To date, such ordinances have not been promoted.

8. St John's Parramatta and St Michael's Wollongong are identified by the people of their region as the provisional cathedral of the region. They provide a focus for Anglican Ministry in the region and there is a desire to maintain the present status and identity of each church in its city and region. Until a decision is made regarding the change of the status of the Provisional Cathedrals to regional cathedrals, it is proposed that both St John's and St Michael's should retain the status of Provisional Cathedrals.

9. The bill is being promoted with the support of the St John's Cathedral Chapter and also the Assistant to the Bishop of Wollongong on behalf of the St Michael's Cathedral Chapter.

Recommendation

10. The Standing Committee recommends that the Synod pass the bill as an ordinance.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

ROBERT WICKS
Legal Officer

23 August 2004