

Proposal to reclassify the provisional parish of Narellan as a parish

(A report of the Wollongong Regional Council.)

Initiation of proposal

1. A proposal was made to the Archbishop by the Minister and Churchwardens of the Provisional Parish of Narellan under clause 4 (1)(b) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

Details of Meeting

2. A meeting of the Wollongong Regional Council was held on 9 September 2003 to consider among other things the proposal under clause 5 of the Ordinance.

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3. The WRC has certified that all procedural requirements under clauses 4 and 6 of the Ordinance have been complied with.

Proposal

4. The proposal is to change the Provisional Parish to a Parish.

Parish Information

5. Narellan is now the centre of one of the fastest growing urban areas in the South West of Sydney. Major residential developments continue to unfold and there is expected to be rapid population growth over the next fifteen years.

6. The Provisional Parish has a most interesting history. The Rev Thomas Hassall was the first Rector appointed in 1827. He subsequently built the Heber Chapel at Cobbitty in 1827 and St Paul's Church Cobbitty was erected in 1840. The "grand" Rectory was completed in 1870. Meetings of Christians began in Elderslie at the turn of the 19th Century.

7. In Narellan a combined school and Church was erected in 1839 and served the area until 1884. St Thomas' Church was built in that year designed by Edmund Blackett.

8. More recent residential developments began in the early 1980s. With the growth a new congregation first met in 1993 in the community cottage out at Mt Annan. The congregation then moved to St Thomas' Narellan in 1995 and an evening service was commenced at that time. Growth continued and the need for a new larger building in Narellan became apparent. The old St Thomas' site was sold in 1999 to fund the new centre in Richardson Road and services in the new building commenced in May 2001.

9. The congregation from St Mark's Elderslie transferred to the new building at the same time.

10. A new congregation was planted in Harrington Park Primary School in 2002 and continues to develop quite rapidly.

11. We are in the initial concept stage of planning a new church plant in Currans Hill or Mount Annan in 2005. This would be a joint plant with members from various congregations. Part of the vision is to be in a position to employ a Moore College graduate in 2006 as the minister for this congregation.

12. The population of the Provisional Parish stands at approximately 35,000. Many young families have moved into the area with the growth often under the banner of second home buyers coming from other parts of urban Sydney. Approximately 2,000 families still claim some affiliation with the Anglican Church.

13. Cobbitty is a more stable centre growth wise. The village is struggling to maintain its separate identity aided by Camden Council restrictions as to the nature and scope of development.

14. The Provisional Parish employs a Senior Minister, Assistant Minister, Children's & Youth Minister, a Student Minister, one MTS Trainee and a Part Time Secretary.

15. There are many Lay brethren who play active parts in ministry throughout the Parish.

16. There are six Public Primary Schools and three High Schools in the Provisional Parish. In addition Macarthur Anglican School has a primary school campus currently in Narellan while the senior campus is in Cobbitty. The primary school campus has been sold and will be re-located to the Cobbitty Campus in 2005. SRE is taught in all the public schools.

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17. The Provisional Parish currently has 232 regular adult worshippers and 91 children with average attendances being -

Church	Service time	No. of adults	No. of children
St Paul's Cobbitty	8:00 am	25	2
St Thomas' Narellan	8:00 am	18	4
	9:45 am	78	55
	7:00 pm	65	5
Harrington Park	5:00 pm	45	25

Particulars of church property

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

St Paul's Cobbitty	Value of Land & Improvements 31.12.02.	Condition of Building
Church, Chapel & Cemetery	112,000	Fair
Hall	100,000	Fair
Rectory	415,000	Good
Vacant Land		
298 Cobbitty Road	170,000	N/A
320 Cobbitty Road	530,000	N/A
330 Cobbitty Road	490,000	N/A
344 Cobbitty Road	150,000	N/A
10 & 55 Chittick Lane	1,000,000	N/A
St Mark's Elderslie		
Church, Hall	185,000	Fair
St Thomas' Narellan		
Church, Creche, Demountables	1,100,000	New
Cemetery	141,000	Fair
TOTAL	4,393,000	

Summary of consolidated receipts and payments

19. A summary of the financial position over the last 3 years and the budget for 2004 is set out below -

	2001	2002	2003	Budget 2004
Receipts	\$	\$		\$
Offerories	99,848	128,045	190,439	208,000
Missions	15,017	18,894	12,416	17,500
Rent/Interest	25,418	34,977	54,674	30,600
Donations	65			
Redemption	60,233			
Investments		24,753	161,700	90,000
Grants	52,546	77,795	92,120	96,000
GST Refunds	-121			
Other	25,034	6,120	19,709	750
Totals	278,040	290,584	531,058	442,850

	2001	2002	2003	Budget 2004
Expenditure	\$	\$		\$
Stipends, Salaries	158,859	193,062	204,764	290,531
Cost Recovery	19,821	26,524	31,326	25,331
Ministry Expenses	8,286	7,155	16,672	9,011
Printing/Stationery	4,621	15,122	10,818	7,700
Repairs & Maintenance	5,991	7,187	27,894	47,390
Insurance	363			
Electricity, Gas etc	16,036	18,275	9,633	9,500
Missions	11,806	12,474	14,201	18,800

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Glebe Admin Board	2,632		3,638	1,450
Professional Services	1,790	2,874	8,199	7,800
Other	2,455	6,898	28,201	8,956
New Church Centre	36,084			
Outreach	6,118	1,021	3,351	4,850
Totals	274,862	290,592	358,697	431,319

20. A summary of the assets and liabilities of the provisional parish as at 31 December 2003 is -

Assets	\$
Cash	40,066
Investments	348,835
Building Contents, Furniture & Equipment	458,000
Buildings	7,023,648
Land	4,393,000
Total	12,263,549
Liabilities	
Payables	1,123
New taxes Summary	10,124
Loans	36,490
Provision Funds	
Total	47,737
Net Assets	12,215,812

21. The Bishop of Wollongong and his Assistant strongly support the application.

Recommendation

22. The Wollongong Regional Council recommends that the Provisional Parish of Narellan be reclassified as a Parish with effect from 1 January 2005.

For and on behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council.

GEOFF KYNGDON
Assistant to the Bishop of Wollongong

31 August 2004