

## Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Hoxton Park to a parish

(A report from the Georges River Regional Council)

### Initiation of Proposal

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

### Details of Meeting

2. A meeting of the Parish Arrangements Committee on 29 August 2005 certified that all requirements under clauses 4 and 6 have been complied with.

3. A meeting of the Georges River Regional Council held on 30 August 2005 considered the proposal under clause 5 of the Ordinance.

4. Although the provisional parish does not have "a church" as such, the advice of the Diocesan Legal Officer, is that Clause 6(3)(f) does not require the Property Trust to have ownership of a building in which a congregation meets. The terms freehold and leasehold apply to land and not to buildings. The freehold or leasehold of the land on which the building is situated does need to be held in trust for the parish. This is the case here at Hoxton Park and architectural plans are now before Liverpool City Council for Development Approval to build a permanent church building on the site. The fact that there are other congregations of the provisional parish meeting in buildings on land not held on trust for the parish does not prevent reclassification to parish status. It is enough that "a" building is on land held on trust for the parish, and this is the case here.

### Proposal

5. The proposal is to change the Provisional Parish of Hoxton Park to the Parish of Hoxton Park.

6. The provisional parish has applied for a change in classification following its steady growth in membership and ministry in recent years.

### Parish Information

7. The provisional parish began as a branch church, St Clement's Busby as part of St Mark's Sadleir. The Rev John Reid was the first Assistant Minister at Busby in 1987. He was followed by the Rev Bruce Dingwall in 1989 when there were 8 people attending. In 1993, Vision for Growth bought land in Bonnyrigg Heights, built a rectory and obtained a portable building for a temporary church. This became the provisional parish of Hoxton Park in 1994. By this time, some 40 people were attending. Plans were then changed from building two churches, one of which was to be on North Liverpool Road, to building one large church for the rapidly expanding suburbs around the Cowpasture Road area of Liverpool City Council, LGA. A visible site of 3.3 acres was purchased on Cowpasture Road itself in 1997 and work is progressing, gaining approvals for the construction of a church complex.

8. The 2001 ABS Census gave a total population of 39,315 of whom 7.8% claim Anglican affiliation. The population is considerable more in 2005 estimated between 60-70,000, and continues to expand with new developments.

9. The parish staff consists of two full-time ministers, two student ministers, an MTS worker and a part-time secretary. Parish offertories support total costs of one minister, two thirds of the second, one student minister and the secretary.

10. Sunday attendance is 155 adults and 40 children as follows –

9.30am	William Carey Christian School	75
5pm	Thomas Hassall Anglican College	20
7pm	Thomas Hassall Anglican College	60
	Weekly Nursing Home Service	30

11. Other parish activities include 12 Home Groups, 2 youth groups, one young adults group, 9 teachers in 5 primary schools teaching 500 students, one high school lunch time ministry and a Youth Outreach Camp each January. The provisional parish sent a BCA Mission team to Hillston this year.

### Future Plans

12. The lack of church building has caused a plateauing in growth. The new building is due next year. Changes in leadership strategy will mean that mentoring for leaders who can train other leaders and a growing emphasis on young marrieds ministry and youth work are now the priority.

### Particulars of Church Trust Property

13. Details of property held by the Property Trust upon trust for the provisional parish are as follows –

	<b>Insured Value</b>
Site of Anglican Church, Latrobe Road and Cowpasture Road (House)	\$551,000
Carmichael Drive West Hoxton (Assistant Minister's residence)	\$263,000
North Liverpool Road, Bonnyrigg (Rectory)	\$195,000

### Summary of consolidated receipts and payments.

14. A summary of the financial position over the last three years and the budget for 2005 is set out below –

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Offeratories	113,909	111,185	123,777	145,000
Missions	3,662	2,204	3,365	--
Rent/Interest	3,498	3,560	1,764	1,600
Donations	590	21,928	22,230	7,000
Investments	-	-	3,767	1,200
Grants	26,000	31,000	25,000	31,000
GST Refunds	8,040	770	--	--
Other Receipts	9,945	8,593	18,201	2,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>142,244</b>	<b>179,240</b>	<b>198,104</b>	<b>188,300</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Stipends/salaries	128,509	118,597	125,684	130,249
Cost Recovery	12,720	22,683	24,913	25,665
Printing & Stationery	950	8,633	7,708	8,764
Repairs & Maintenance	12,090	19,301	1,661	3,000
Insurance	--	--	460	500
Electricity etc	2,210	2,859	2,253	3,200
Missions	3,862	4,247	45	--
Other	11,143	8,638	18,597	22,022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171,484</b>	<b>184,958</b>	<b>181,321</b>	<b>193,400</b>

15. The parish has loans only on one minister's car.

16. Archdeacon Geoff Huard supports the application.

### Recommendation

17. The Georges River Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Hoxton Park becomes a parish from 1 January 2006.

For and behalf of the Georges River Regional Council.

GEOFF HUARD  
Archdeacon of Liverpool / Georges River Regional Council

31 August 2005