

## 17/07 Climate Change

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

1. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> ordinary session of the Synod in 2007, the Synod passed the following resolution about Climate Change –

**“17/07 Climate Change**

Synod accepts the emerging scientific consensus that climate change is occurring and supports the need for Christian responses to the potential problems and opportunities that arise from climate change including –

- (a) Praying for our world and using every opportunity to speak of the Lordship of Jesus Christ,
- (b) Christian ministry to those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as farmers, rural communities, the homeless and refugees,
- (c) The setting of a godly example of good stewardship in our personal and communal lives,
- (d) Education of our children about a biblical understanding of creation and our role as its stewards and carers,
- (e) The development and implementation of an environmental policy within each Parish and Diocesan organisation which expresses principles of good environmental stewardship and care, and
- (f) Encouraging governments at all levels to take climate change seriously and to make wise policy decisions to deal with its effects.”

2. Resolution 17/07 does not require parishes and diocesan organisations to report back to Synod about their response to the resolution. However the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney and the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat wish to do so.

3. Their responses are set out in Annexures 1 and 2 respectively.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

ROBERT WICKS  
*Diocesan Secretary*

29 August 2008

Annexure 1

## **Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney**

### **Response to resolution 17/07 on climate change**

#### **Introduction**

1. At the October 2007 meeting of the Board of the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney ("ACPT Board"), the ACPT Board noted the Synod Climate Change Resolution 17/07.
2. The ACPT Board also agreed to consider a detailed report about a suggested response to Synod Climate Change Resolution 17/07 at a future meeting.

#### **Dialogue with the Church of England**

3. On 28 November 2007, ACPT management attended a Climate Change presentation given by visiting environmental delegates of the Church of England. Also in attendance were representatives from divisions of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat and every other diocese within the Province of NSW. The presentation afforded an opportunity to have dialogue with the Church of England delegates and provincial representatives about environmental matters generally, and more specifically about the Church of England response to Climate Change and the associated development of environmental policy. A report about the Church of England Climate Change presentation was subsequently considered at the December 2007 meeting of the ACPT Board.

#### **Policy Development**

4. At the December 2007 meeting of the ACPT Board, reports were noted about the Church of England Climate Change presentation and the ongoing Climate Change work also being undertaken by the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat. The ACPT Board also requested that further reports be provided to future meetings for consideration.

#### **Parish Pilot Group Environmental Assessment Concept**

5. In February 2008, the ACPT Board noted a report and agreed in-principle to the concept of a pilot group environmental assessment of a group of parishes. In doing so it noted that a request to appoint a suitably qualified environmental consultant would be brought to a future ACPT Board meeting.

#### **Invitations to Tender**

6. During March 2008, three organisations were invited to submit tender proposals - to be conducted to Australian Standards - for the provision of parish pilot group environmental assessments.

### **Selection of Tenderer**

7. At the April 2008 meeting of the ACPT Board, a report was received which summarised the comparative strengths and weaknesses of each of the tenders received. The ACPT Board subsequently agreed to engage Allen Jack + Cottier to undertake a pilot group environmental assessment of a group of five parishes and authorised the full cost to be paid for from the limited discretionary reserves of the ACPT. It was also agreed that the views of the Regional Archdeacons be sought to recommend suitable sites for the environmental assessments to be undertaken.

### **Selection of Parish Sites**

8. During May 2008 suggestions were sought from each of the Regional Archdeacons for appropriate parish sites to be assessed within the following broad categories –

- Church building (*small*), hall and rectory [1945 - 1980]
- Church building (*large*), hall and rectory [1945 - 1980]
- Historic Church building (*small*), hall and rectory [pre-1945]
- Historic Church building (*large*), hall and rectory [pre-1945]
- Church building (*contemporary*), hall and rectory [post 1980]

Five parishes were subsequently invited to participate in the environmental assessments (with the full cost to be met by the ACPT).

### **Commencement of Parish Pilot Group Environmental Assessments**

9. At the time of the preparation of this report, written responses had not yet been received from all the Parishes invited to participate in the Pilot Group of Environmental Assessments. Once all the written responses have been received, the Environmental Assessments will commence.

### **Reporting**

10. After each of the five selected parishes has been assessed, the ACPT Board intends to provide each of those parishes with a detailed environmental assessment report (to be prepared by the ACPT Board's chosen consultant, Allen Jack + Cottier). It is anticipated that each report will cover aspects including (but not limited to) –

- Reporting of utilities usage (water / gas / electricity),
- Analysis of operational energy usage, and
- Clear recommendations (including cost indicators, if applicable).

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11. Furthermore, it is proposed that the recommendations be divided into three categories: those recommendations that can be carried out at little or no cost to the parish, recommendations involving a medium to long-term return on investment, and recommendations that could be most appropriately be considered if alterations, additions or improvements are planned.

12. The ACPT Board believes that the pilot group environmental assessments will provide an “environmental snapshot” of the wider Diocese as a whole. Therefore, it is also proposed to make a condensed version of each of the parish reports available electronically to all parishes within the Diocese of Sydney. This will enable parishes to –

- Pick the assessed category that most closely resembles their parish,
- View and benefit from the assessment results, and most importantly, and
- Take advantage of the report recommendations (as appropriate).

### **Conclusion**

13. The response of the ACPT Board to Synod Climate Change Resolution 17/07 will not end at the conclusion of the Parish Pilot Group Environmental Assessments program. Rather, the ACPT Board’s consideration of the Environmental Assessment reports (and the recommendations contained therein) will assist in the on-going development and implementation of an environmental policy for the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney which expresses principles of good environmental stewardship and care.

For and on behalf of the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney.

JAMES CARTWRIGHT

*Manager*

*Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney*

11 June 2008

## **Sydney Diocesan Secretariat**

### **Response to resolution 17/07 on climate change**

#### **Introduction**

1. During the Synod's meeting in 2007, a resolution was passed that impacted all diocesan organisations. It stated that –

“Synod accepts the emerging scientific consensus that climate change is occurring and supports the need for Christian responses to the potential problems and opportunities that arise from climate change including –

- (a) The setting of a godly example of good stewardship in our personal and communal lives;
- (b) The development and implementation of an environmental policy within each Parish and Diocesan organisation which expresses principles of good environmental stewardship and care.”

2. In response to the resolution, the Secretariat has investigated the environmental impact of its operations at St Andrew's House and has developed a draft environmental policy which expresses principles of good environmental stewardship and care.

#### **Timeline of activities**

3. The Secretariat began to address its obligation to the Synod under resolution 17/07 in late 2007. Since then, the Secretariat has engaged in the following activities –

- Representatives from the Secretariat met with the Social Issues Executive to review their work on climate change.
- An in-house project control group on climate change was formed.
- The Secretariat hosted a half-day workshop with representatives from the Church of England who explained their national campaign to enable members and institutions to address the issue of climate change.
- Technology Services engaged DeCarbon, a consulting firm, to assess the environmental impact of the Secretariat's technology operations.
- The ACPT began investigating the feasibility of an environmental audit of parishes.

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- Corporate Services signed-up to Monash University's *Green Steps* programme and engaged a science student to conduct an environmental assessment of its premises.
- Corporate Services engaged Ernst&Young to assess the data collected by the intern and establish its carbon footprint.
- The Secretariat developed a set of short, medium and long term goals to reduce the environmental impact of its operations.
- Corporate Services liaised with Anglican Media to report the results of its environmental assessment to readers of *Southern Cross* newspaper and the *sydneyanglicans.net* website.
- The Secretariat provided advice to other Anglican organisations including the Anglican Board of Mission and the Georges River Regional Council on measuring their environmental footprint.
- St Andrew's House participated in Earth Hour.
- The ACPT invited three environmental consultancies to submit tender proposals for a pilot parish environmental audit. (Subsequently, Allen Jack + Cottier were engaged to carry out an environmental assessment of five parishes.)
- Parish and Property Services signed-up St Andrew's House to Sydney Water's Every Drop Counts water conservation programme for businesses.
- Technology Services hosted a forum to discuss the impact of Anglican organisations' technology on the environment. The forum was attended by Anglicare, Anglican Retirement Villages and other Anglican organisations. At the forum, Corporate Services delivered a presentation on technology and the environment.
- The Secretariat developed a draft environmental policy statement.

### **Environmental assessment results**

4. An audit of the Secretariat's premises focused on the organisation's environmental impact in the areas of energy, water and waste.

#### *Energy*

5. Using the Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS), the Secretariat calculated the environmental impact of its energy use.

*Water*

6. Sydney Water's best practice guidelines were used to review the Secretariat's water use.

7. Parish and Property Services will continue to monitor the Secretariat's water use.

*Waste*

8. Most of the Secretariat's paper and cardboard is recycled but a small amount of office paper was found in its waste stream. Developing employees' environmental awareness will reduce the amount of recyclable paper that is wasted. The Secretariat will further investigate the recycling of bottles, cans and glass either on-site or using an off-site recycling service.

**Next steps**

9. The Secretariat will continue to refine its measurement processes throughout the next year and plans to commence providing regular measurement to its Board from 2009 onwards.

10. The Secretariat's key reporting measures will be based around –

*Energy*

- Yearly energy consumption
- Yearly CO2 emission

*Water*

- Yearly water consumption

*Waste and recycling*

- Total paper use
- Total weight recycled
- Total office paper recycled

11. We do not expect to be impacted by the potential mandatory reporting obligations contained in the Commonwealth Government legislation. SDS Legal Services will however review the impact of all new environmental legislation on the Sydney Diocese and the organisations within it.

**Draft environmental policy statement**

12. The Secretariat has prepared a draft environmental policy, which is currently being reviewed by the management team and other parties. It says:

13. GAB/SDS is committed to –

- Managing our environmental impact by using resources more efficiently;

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- Setting realistic targets to continually improve our environmental performance;
- Auditing, monitoring and reporting our performance against those targets;
- Participating in re-use and recycling programmes;
- Including environmental requirements in our procurement practices;
- Complying with all relevant Commonwealth, State and local environmental legislation and regulations;
- Developing our employees' environmental awareness;
- Periodically reviewing our environmental policy statement to reflect environmental better practice; and
- Proactively assisting other diocesan organisations including the Anglican Church Property Trust to develop policies and practices that demonstrate principles of good environmental stewardship and care.

### **Moving forward**

14. The Secretariat will be actively engaged in the diocesan response to the issue of climate change. Not only do we see this as our legitimate response to the Synod specifically and the Diocese generally, but it is also a matter of effective stewardship of our resources.

15. We are committed to the issue, and intend to continue dialogue with the Diocese and individual organisations to manage this challenging and contemporary issue.

For and on behalf of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat

STEVE MCKERIHAN  
*Chief Executive Officer*

15 July 2008