

Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 2009

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.
2. Under clause 9 of the Ordinance, the following ordinances are repealed with effect from 1 January 2010 –
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 2010.

Purpose of the Bill

4. The purpose of the bill is to extend from 1 January 2010 to 1 January 2012 the date upon which the ordinances referred to in 2 are repealed.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 2012.
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. Two initial reviews extending the status of the Provisional Cathedrals from 1 January 2000 to 1 January 2005 and 1 January 2005 to 1 January 2010 have already been undertaken with the passing of the Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 1998 and the Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 2004.
7. If the Synod and the Archbishop decide that regionalism should continue in its present form, then the long-term status of St John's Provisional Cathedral and St Michael's Provisional Cathedral will need to be decided. When the Regions (Transitional Provisions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Amending Ordinance 2004 was passed, it was expected that such a review would be undertaken. No review has been undertaken and it is therefore proposed that a further 2 year extension to the status of St John's and St Michael's as Provisional Cathedrals be granted in order to allow time for this to occur.
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 Bishop of Western Sydney on behalf 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
Diocesan Secretary
29 September 2009