

Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Wollondilly to a parish

(A report of the Wollongong Regional Council.)

Proposal

1. A proposal was made to the Archbishop by the minister and wardens of the provisional parish of Wollondilly under clause 4 of the Parishes Ordinance 1979 for reclassification as a parish.

Support of the Wollongong Regional Council

2. On 9 November 2010 the Wollongong Regional Council resolved to support the request that the provisional parish of Wollondilly be classified as a parish under the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

Parish Information

3. The provisional parish consists of five towns – Tahmoor, Thirlmere, Bargo, Buxton and Yanderra and the outlying areas of Pheasants Nest and Lakesland. It is a semi-rural area with urban townships.

4. Tahmoor is the commercial centre of the area and is experiencing some significant mercantile growth. Amongst many smaller stores the shopping complex has a Woolworths, House Warehouse and a Bi-Lo. An ALDI has recently opened and planning is in progress to build a Big W.

5. The provisional parish of Wollondilly was formed in 1981 with four previous branch churches from the parish of Picton. These were St John's, Buxton (since been sold), Holy Trinity Tahmoor, St Stephen's Thirlmere and St Paul's Bargo.

6. St Stephen's, Thirlmere built a new multi-function church building in 1991.

7. In 2004 a church plant, Wollondilly Anglican Community Church, was started in the newly built SASC School, Wollondilly Anglican College.

8. The parish now has two full time staff (the minister and a lay stipendiary worker) and a student minister working one day a week. A part time volunteer works as an office administrator.

9. The minister is housed in a diocesan standard rectory and is remunerated at the recommended diocesan stipend.

10. Parish activities include, Boys Brigade, a monthly senior's service, and monthly retirement village service, two craft groups, 13 Bible study groups, youth group, play group and a monthly op shop.

11. Outreach activities have included Carols-by-candlelight, Alpha courses, Toys and Tucker collections, Gingerbread house nights and the distribution of the Essential Jesus gospels.

12. There are five primary schools in the parish, each catered for with SRE.

Breakup of estimated number of persons who are members of the congregations and who regularly meet for worship

13. The estimated number of persons residing within the Provisional Parish claiming adherence to the Anglican Church of Australia are, according to the NCLS Community Profile (2006), 5,112 people identified themselves as Anglican (i.e. 32.4%).

14. The estimated number of persons who are members of the congregations within the Provisional Parish and who regularly meet for worship within the boundaries of the Provisional Parish is 170 members

Centre	Time	Adults	Children
Tahmoor (Holy Trinity)	9:00am	25	10
Thirlmere (St Stephen's)	10:00am	60	15
Bargo (St Paul's)	10:15am	20	8
Bargo (St Paul's)	5:00pm	35	0
Wollondilly Anglican Community Church	9:00am	30	15
Total		170	48

Future Plans

15. The parish has adopted Diocesan Mission Strategy and to policies 1-3 in particular. We are committed to training and developing leaders and the evangelism of the parish and beyond.

16. In order to grow we intend to increase our staff so that there can be one full time pastor in each of the four churches.

17. Because of its prime location there is the intention to develop the Tahmoor property which is on the main street opposite the shopping centre. The current church and facilities are inadequate. The desire is to build a modern facility that would assist ministry into the future.

18. In time, if the population of the parish and churches increases the parish may need to subdivide into two or more parishes.

Particulars of all Church Trust Property held in trust for the Provisional Parish**Site of St Stephen's Thirlmere**

Old Church	\$189,000
Church complex	\$521,000
Shed	\$8,000

Site of St Paul's Bargo

Church	\$195,000
Demountable	Nil

Site of Holy Trinity Tahmoor

Church	\$350,000
Toilet Block	\$5,000
Shed	\$2,000

Site of Rectory

Rectory	\$394,000
Garage	\$14,000

19. The parish also has use of a house and land at Tahmoor belonging to the Mission Property Committee

Summary of Consolidated Receipts and Payments

20. A summary of the financial position over the past three years is set out below –

Receipts	2009	2008	2007
Offeratories & Donations	173,646	159,565	155,113
Other receipts	1,749	1,174	1,795
Special services		1,400	
Grants	13,853	15,000	20,000
Finance Income	818	3,819	548
Other Income	6,413	7,277	3,319
Trading Activities	1,024	3,270	
	197,504	191,504	180,775

Payments

Ministry Staffing	152,019	131,646	130,519
Resources	17,446	12,206	22,954
Parish administration	4,686	5,499	

Consumables	55		
Professional services	3,178	954	1418
Parish property	19,279	18453	21066
Other			18712
	196,608	168814	194669
	895	22691	-13894

21. In accordance with Section 6 of the Ordinance the provisional parish over the previous financial year –

- Paid the minister according to minimum recommended stipend and provided the recommended travel allowance.
- Has paid all cost recoveries.
- Housed the minister in a diocesan standard residence.
- Is in a sound financial condition

Recommendation

22. The Wollongong Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Wollondilly be reclassified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2012.

For and behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council

PETER HAYWARD
Regional Bishop

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Assistant to the Bishop

18 March 2011