

## **Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of South Creek 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 South Creek under clause 4 of the Parishes Ordinance 1979 for reclassification as a parish.

### **Recommendation of the Wollongong Regional Council**

2. On 19 July 2010 the proposal was circulated to the Wollongong Regional Council to be considered under clause 5 of the Parishes Ordinance.

3. The Wollongong Regional Council certifies that all procedural requirements under clauses 4 and 6 of the Parishes Ordinance have been completed, and recommends that the Synod raise the status of the provisional parish to a parish.

### **Parish Information**

4. Since 2006, the strategy of the provisional parish of South Creek has been to focus its mission in the south of the parish, in the suburb of Harrington Park, with the aim of expanding north into Oran Park Town, and further north in the future as the parish area continues to develop.

5. The church in Harrington Park began initially in 2002 as a church plant from the parish of Narellan – meeting at 5pm in the local primary school hall. It began with a core group of about 20 people. In 2006, the church was strengthened by the joining of the South Creek congregation from Rossmore (approximately 40 people). Since then the number of total attendees has steadily increased such that currently 94 adults and 63 children attend regularly, with an average weekly attendance of 86 (10am) and 24 (6pm).

6. The estimated future population of Oran Park Town is up to 20,000 people (in addition to 9,500 people in Harrington Park & Harrington Grove). Further north, development is expected to continue throughout the Parish over the next 20-30 years seeing an estimated 200,000 people move into the current parish area. This development presents an enormous opportunity for ministry in the parish, both now and into the future.

7. The current development of Oran Park Town and the building of an Anglican precinct (ministry centre, school and seniors living facility) presents a unique opportunity to reach this new community and

establish a significant ministry centre able to resource mission to future growth areas. The minister and parish council, in consultation with the Bishop, have developed a 5-year ministry plan for the parish including Oran Park Town.

8. One key aspect of the parish's ministry strategy is ministry to children and youth. The church in Harrington Park has a significant presence in the school community – teaching scripture to over 240 kids in the local school each week and running a kids club at the school on Thursday afternoons with around 50 kids coming each week. The youth ministry is developing well and has seen the recent commencement of a new evening church (also in the school hall) particularly aimed at reaching youth and young adults.

9. Attendance and offertories have increased over the past 3 years such that the ministry is now almost entirely self-funded and offertories are above the threshold for gaining full parish status (see table below).

10. The staff comprises the minister, a part-time children's ministry leader and a full-time MTS apprentice.

**Particulars of Church Property**

11. The Property held by the Anglican Church Property Trust upon trust for the Provisional Parish comprises three buildings at Rossmore: the Church of the Holy Innocents; the church hall; and the Rectory.

12. Because the parish's strategy is to focus on the new development areas in the south of the parish, the properties at Rossmore are not used for regular ministry. Instead, they are used to generate rental income, which offsets some of the rental costs of ministry facilities in Harrington Park (school hall, house and office space in Harrington Plaza).

13. The future building of a ministry centre and house in Oran Park Town will provide an important resource for the mission to Oran Park Town and the surrounding areas.

**Summary of Consolidated Receipts and Payments**

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

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Offertories	98,300	107,199	133,468
Missions	4,133	4,118	3,751
Grants	65,000	36,500	38,500
Other	1,259	4,178	1,188
Trading Activities – excess	7,739	5,053	4,146
<b>Total</b>	<b>176,431</b>	<b>157,048</b>	<b>181,053</b>

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Ministry Staffing	99,321	99,493	101,839
Parish Cost Recoveries	13,077	20,671	16,527
Resources for ministry	4,455	3,207	4,881
Missions	4,279	4,112	3,751
Administration (incl. staff)	22,772	16,184	22,112
Property expenses	5,241	7,207	6,715
Net property rental loss	17,435	10,734	8,755
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,580</b>	<b>161,608</b>	<b>164,579</b>

15. The parish supports Kingsley and Veronica Box as missionaries in Slovenia.
16. The parish has no outstanding debts.
17. The Bishop of Wollongong supports this reclassification.

**Recommendation**

18. The Wollongong Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of South Creek be reclassified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2011.

For and behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council

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*Regional Bishop*

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*Assistant to the Bishop*

10 August 2010