

Regional Councils' Annual Reports for 2021

(A compilation of extracts from the annual reports of the Regional Councils.)

Key Points

- Under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995* each Regional Council must present an annual report of its proceedings and the exercise of its general functions for inclusion in the Standing Committee's report to Synod for that year
- These reports are in addition to the annual reports prepared by the Regional Councils and tabled at the Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*

Background

1. Under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995*, each Regional Council must present to the Standing Committee an annual report of its proceedings and the exercise of its general functions under clause 6 in sufficient time each year to enable the Standing Committee to include the report in the report for that year of the Standing Committee to Synod.
2. The general functions of the Regional Councils under clause 6 are –
 - (a) to carry out or assist in carrying out any resolutions passed by the Synod or the Standing Committee and referred to it for implementation;
 - (b) to develop ministry strategies in the Region;
 - (c) to assess applications for grants in the Region made or referred to it;
 - (d) to make grants or loans from money (consistent with any trusts on which that money may be held) available to it for distribution or for lending;
 - (e) to accept gifts and grants;
 - (f) to raise and expend money for any purpose connected with ministry in the Region;
 - (g) to employ persons for any purpose connected with ministry within the Region, and to dismiss any person so employed;
 - (h) to manage and control any endowment held for the Region as a whole;
 - (i) to discuss matters affecting the Region and to disseminate information in the Region;
 - (j) to make recommendations to the Archbishop about alterations to regional boundaries; and
 - (k) to exercise such other functions as the Synod or the Standing Committee may from time to time prescribe.
3. The following are the reports from the Regional Councils for 2021 for the purposes of clause 9(2). These reports are extracts from the annual reports prepared by the Regional Councils and tabled at the Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*.

Northern Regional Council

4. The Council met once during the year. The Council also passed a circular resolution on 23 March 2021, with all members at the time supporting the resolution.
5. The Rev Ian Millican resigned from the Council effective 17 September 2021 because of his taking the role of Bishop's Assistant in Armidale Diocese. Mr Millican served on the Council since 2006.
6. The Council meeting enabled discussion of a range of matters relating to ministry strategies in the region, including consideration of ways the Council might assist parish ministry in line with the Diocesan Mission.
7. The coronavirus pandemic restricted the Council's ability to meet face to face and to undertake a range of activities that it had planned or usually would have undertaken, such as an annual meeting of region clergy.

8. In accordance with its authority and responsibilities under relevant ordinances, in March 2021 the Council agreed to support the Parish of St Paul's Terry Hills progressing to full parish status with effect from 1 July 2021 [promoted to Synod in May 2021].
9. The Council noted and discussed the paper presented at [the May 2021] Synod which will result in new regional boundaries. The Council supported engaging with parish churches to seek their input on the boundary matter and also to establishing roles akin to prior archdeacon offices with authority to make mission area decisions e.g. a mission area deacon/leader to approve certain property matters without being required to consult with the Regional Bishop.

South Sydney Regional Council

10. The South Sydney Regional Council serves the South Sydney Region of the Diocese of Sydney which includes the Inner West, Sydney City, Eastern Suburbs, and Bayside Mission Areas. The South Sydney Region also includes the parish of Lord Howe Island and the Church of England on Norfolk Island.
11. Only two Council meeting was held in 2021. Further consultation occurred via phone and email.
12. In 2021, the main activities of the Council either by way of report or action was as follows –
 - Receiving reports from, and providing approved funding for, the Church of England on Norfolk Island (\$28,228), Living Water Indigenous Ministry (\$6,250), and the Parish of South Sydney (\$10,000).
 - Distributing to the Parish the Synod Grant for Lord Howe Island (\$22,000).
 - Giving feedback to the reconfiguration of Regions and Mission Areas in the Diocese.
 - Providing financial support for a Regional Ministry Conference (which was cancelled due to COVID restrictions).
 - Approving the change of rules that apply to the Parish of Eastgardens under the Parish Administration Ordinance from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2.
 - Reviewed progress on the appointment of clergy to vacant parishes and various property development proposals.

South Western Regional Council

13. The Regional Council had three meetings in 2021 due to COVID-19. The Council continued to meet to discuss strategies for reaching the Region. The challenge of the Greenfields has begun to be a discussion point. Whilst the Council does not have much by the way of funds nor any significant ongoing source of funds, how to maximize those funds for gospel ministry has also been subject to discussion.

Western Sydney Regional Council

14. The main committees are the Executive Committee, the Ordinance Review Panel and the Architectural Panel.
15. The Council met on 3 occasions during 2021 via Zoom.
16. The main areas of consideration included assisting parishes with a response to COVID-19 lockdowns and related matters, parish vacancies and new appointments, strategic partnerships between parishes, formation of a new recognized church, building projects in the region, approving parish boundary adjustments, assisting a parish in negotiations with ASC over property use, assisting a parish to regenerate ministry in a socially disadvantaged area and encouraging some ministers into the Reach Australia development program.

Wollongong Regional Council

17. The Wollongong Regional Council met three times during 2021, on the evenings of 2 March, 22 June and 12 October. The meetings were held in Wollongong with each meeting preceded by a meal.
18. The realignment of regional boundaries midway through 2021 meant that the Macarthur Mission Area was no longer part of the Wollongong Region. This meant that Rev Stephen Swanepoel and Mrs Kerry Thomas were no longer members of the Regional Council for the third meeting of the year.
19. Bishop Peter Hayward and the Regional Council worked closely to further support ministry across the Region. This included –
- providing financial support for CMD consultancy for parishes working in marginalised communities
 - coordinating the sale of a dwelling to the parish of Sussex Inlet for use as a rectory
 - coordinating the sale of a dwelling to MPC for use as a rectory at Leppington
 - tidying up parochial boundaries for parishes in the Macarthur Mission Area prior to the regional boundary realignment
 - creating a pilot program to help fund new workers in parishes (Keiraville and Port Kembla for 2022)
 - promoting an ordinance to change the status of Jamberoo to a full parish at the next synod session
 - providing financial support with subsidised demountable at Helensburgh and Denham Court, and agreeing to the sale of a demountable to Helensburgh
 - meeting with and support of Mission Area leaders
 - support for Rectors
 - ongoing support for ESL English classes
 - ESL classes were delivered in 13 Parishes across the Region
 - Support through provision of office space for the Regional Anglicare ESL Coordinator, Mrs Sue Radkovic
 - ongoing support for Indigenous Ministries
 - Pastor Michael Duckett linked with St Peter's Campbelltown in partnership with the SAIPMC
 - Mr Phil Miles linked with All Saints Nowra in partnership with the SAIPMC
 - provision of advice and support through the impact of the pandemic.
20. During 2021 funding from the Region's assets was allocated to the specific ministry in the South West growth sector.

Ministry	Purpose	Allocation	Total
CMD	Consultancy – marginalised areas	\$20,000	
Keiraville Parish	Grant – new worker	\$5,000	\$25,000

21. The Council received reports from Bishop Hayward and the Assistant to the Bishop at each meeting. For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

DANIEL GLYNN
Diocesan Secretary

26 July 2022