

DIOCESE OF GRAFTON
REPORT – PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT CANON 2007
TO THE 18TH SESSION OF GENERAL SYNOD

Background

The Diocese of Grafton adopted the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 by Ordinance in 2008

Overview

The Diocese of Grafton strongly supports in principle and in action the principles of the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007, however is unable to produce a report in accordance with section 3 of the Canon.

The Diocese has not determined a reliable and practical manner of meaningfully measuring the environmental footprint of the Diocese's activities that would take into account fluctuations and variations of those activities.

In lieu of that form of reporting, this report will focus on activities taken to promote environmental awareness and to introduce improvements.

Awareness

The Diocese's Mission and Ministry Overview (i.e. Strategic Intent) includes "promote environmental stewardship" as an element of governance and culture improvement and includes the Five Marks of Mission as undergirding the plan.

Environmental issues are promoted and sustainability is supported in many ways. The following are the most notable recent examples.

The Diocese of Grafton hosts and curates a Facebook page Care For Creation – Anglican Diocese of Grafton <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanCareforCreation/> to promote environmental awareness.

In December 2019, the newspaper of the Diocese of Grafton, North Coast Anglican, devoted four tabloid pages to showcase the environmental and sustainability initiatives of the Anglican schools of the Diocese.

The Earth Hour is observed annually at Grafton Cathedral and in a number of parish churches across the Diocese. Earth Overshoot Day was observed in 2019 in the Parish of Ballina.

St Columba Anglican School at Port Macquarie hosted its inaugural "Chairman's Climate Change Forum" on 26 August 2019 providing a public platform for exchange of information about climate change and advocating for more urgent action to address global warming.

Environmental awareness and practical activities are integrated into the curriculum and extra-curricula activities of each of the Anglican schools of the Diocese.

Initiatives**Central Administration**

The geography of the Diocese of Grafton means that Boards, Committees and Councils include members who travel up to 250km each way to attend a meeting. The Diocese introduced special video conference facilities in 2017 which has reduced the reliance on travel to attend meetings.

The meeting papers for meetings of Diocesan Boards, Committees and Councils are made available in pdf format reducing the environmental effect of printing and posting. This is supported by papers being available on a members' area on the Diocesan website. This practice is now well accepted and very few members use printed meeting papers.

The Diocesan newspaper the North Coast Anglican has been available on-line since 2017 and the demand for printed versions has decreased. Recently, an on-line only version has been introduced and the printed version reduced from 6 to 4 times per year.

The material provided to members of Synod were provided in paper form with a digital version available on an opt in basis. To further reduce the environmental impacts of paper consumption and postage, the digital version was made the norm and those requiring paper copies had to opt out.

Across the Diocese

There has been a significant take up of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on church owned properties across the Diocese. On parish properties across the Diocese, 116.34 kW of solar PV capacity has been installed in 16 locations. Of this capacity, 56.35 kW has been installed or committed since July 2017. On non-parish church property, there is a further 165kW of solar PV capacity over a further 2 locations with 85kW installed since July 2017 and further solar PV capacity planned in association with future building projects.

There has been widespread replacement of incandescent light globes across the Diocese with the use of energy efficient fluorescent lighting and LED lighting being introduced in properties across the Diocese. For example, Bishop Druitt College at Coffs Harbour, 4400 lights were replaced with LED lighting. This has resulted in a significant reduction in power associated with lighting.

There are 23 parish opportunity shops across the Diocese that contribute to the reuse and repurposing of clothing and household items. The Parish of Mullumbimby also assist with the collection of unwanted x-rays and spectacles.

The management of waste streams across the Diocese is in combination with local government initiatives. All towns and urban areas in the Diocese have Councils that operate a 3 bin waste collection system with bins for recyclables and a bin for garden and food waste and a bin for landfill. Many church groups report their efforts to maximise the benefit of recycling and garden waste collection and some supplement that with composting.

Other notable efforts include:

- At Grafton Cathedral, the Community Building Partnership Program grant scheme (NSW Government) was used for preparing and planting two areas of native and bush tucker shrubs and trees. Native trees (esp. Grevilleas and nectar producing shrubs) were chosen to attract birds and the project work was used to connect with indigenous groups.
- Emmanuel Anglican College at Ballina have 194,150 litres of rainwater storage which is used for toilet flushing. Clarence Valley Anglican School in Grafton have a similar system on their Clarenza campus
- Community Gardens at various Anglican schools

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