

Protection of the Environment Canon: Canberra-Goulburn Report to General Synod 2022

1. Introduction

The requirements of the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 (GS17) were initially met by the Diocese of the Canberra and Goulburn through the Diocese adopting its Environment Protection Canon in 2007 which established its Environment Commission. In 2015, Bishop-in-Council determined that the functions of the Environment Commission were to be incorporated into the Diocese's new Public Issues Commission. The public issues of interest to the Commission include those associated with the environment, such as global warming.

2. Charter of the Public Issues Commission

The Public Issues Commission (PIC) has, as its purpose, to address the fourth and fifth marks of mission of the Anglican Communion, namely:

- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The PIC was formally established as a committee of Bishop-in-Council on 16 April 2016 by the passing of the Public Issues Commission Ordinance 2016.

2.1 *'The functions of the Public Issues Commission are:*

- to facilitate awareness within the Diocese and the community of Public Issues and to stimulate informed debate and discussion of Public Issues amongst the members of this Church;
- to provide advice to the Synod and Bishop-in-Council on Public Issues and to assist in the preparation of submissions that the Bishop or Diocesan agencies may wish to make about Public Issues;
- to assist the Diocese to engage in public advocacy about Public Issues;
- to prepare codes of practice and any amendments to the codes that the Commission may from time to time consider appropriate; and
- to provide such advice or carry out such other functions in relation to Public Issues as may be requested by Bishop-in-Council from time to time.

In the discharge of its functions, the Commission may

- prepare and publish such discussion papers or reports about Public Issues as may be requested by the Bishop, Bishop-in-Council or otherwise considered appropriate by the Commission; and
- conduct and facilitate such lectures, seminars, workshops or conferences about Public Issues as the Commission considers appropriate'.

2.2 *The Codes of Practice*

The Commission may prepare codes of practice which shall be designed to achieve the following purposes:

- to set out good practice in relation to the environment; and
- to assist agencies of the Diocese, including ministry units, to care better for the environment, use the resources of God's creation properly and to act responsibly about the effect the agencies and its members have on God's creation.

3. Members and Structure

Rt Rev'd Prof Stephen Pickard (Chair), Mr Brad Braithwaite, Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton, Ven Paul Cohen, Dr Ian Dalziell (Secretary), Rev'd Dr John Harris, , Dr Beth Heyde, Ms Gillian King, Ms Katy Nicholls, Rev'd Pamela Phillips, Ms Helen Rainger, Dr Greg Rippon, Rev'd Peta Thorpe.

4. Environmental Activities

4.1 *Education*

A major initiative of the Public Issues Commission in 2020-21 was to prepare *God of Compassion: a Lenten Journey* for churches to use during Lent in 2021. This six-week series of studies includes care for the environment as part of our compassionate response. This resource is an offering by the Canberra-Goulburn Diocese to the wider Anglican Church.

4.2 *Decisions of the Diocesan Synod*

Due to Covid, the Diocesan Synod did not meet in 2020. Whilst a one-day session of Synod was able to be held in April 2021, the full session of Synod due to be held in September 2021 also had to be postponed. However, in recent years the Diocesan Synod has passed the following motions:

2018 BC/8 (PIC) – Changing Climate:

Motion: That this Synod:

1. notes that the changing climate, with the disrupted weather patterns and rising sea levels, is impacting the frequency and intensity of problems, including extreme weather, drought, bushfires, storms and floods, economic difficulties, and increasing problems with mental and physical health; and that the most vulnerable are at most risk;
2. mourns the changes we observe and expect in our natural world and life as we know it
3. acknowledges the sorrow, distress, suffering, losses, and hardship that these changes are causing;
4. celebrates that, during times of great challenge or transformation, our religious tradition and faith communities have been and continue to be important sources of inspiration and support;
5. encourages parishes and ministry units to draw on courage, hope, wisdom and spiritual reflection and demonstrate the love of God and care for creation by working with their communities to: a. prepare for and deal with the impacts from our changing climate and associated grief and emergencies; and b. build greater resilience to these impacts;

6. asks the Public Issues Commission to publicise resources to Diocesan ministry units that may help with this work.

Mover: Rt Rev'd Professor Stephen Pickard (Ex-officio/ACCC) Seconded: Ms Katy Nicholls (Charnwood) (CARRIED)

2019 BC/6 (PIC) – Transition for a safer climate

Motion: We believe that God created us to be faithful stewards of His creation and are called to love Him and our neighbours as ourselves. There is overwhelming scientific evidence that our reliance on fossil fuels and other greenhouse gas emitting technologies run contrary to this, we therefore urge governments at each level in Australia to:

1. work towards bipartisan involvement in the formulation of policies and programs directed at reducing such emissions;
2. acknowledge the urgency of such reductions;
3. reduce Australia's reliance on fossil fuel industries;
4. increase support for renewable energy industries and energy storage technologies; and
5. provide effective, strategic and compassionate transition assistance to workers and communities currently dependent on fossil fuel industries.

The above motion to be sent to the leaders of all major parties represented in the Commonwealth, NSW and ACT Parliaments.

Mover: Ms Katy Nicholls (Charnwood) Seconded: Dr Beth Heyde (Jamison)
CARRIED by formal count, results 172 FOR; 20 AGAINST; 23 ABSTAIN

4.3 Environment Code replacement

In accordance with the Public Issues Commission Ordinance 2016, a priority for the Public Issues Commission was to prepare codes of practice on the environment to substitute for the repeal of the Diocesan Environment Code 2007 and the decommissioning of the superseded Diocesan Environment Commission.

The Commission has prepared Environmental Guidelines that reflect recent experience and developments in the Diocese and emerging scientific knowledge. \

These Guidelines are voluntary and are designed to assist diocesan agencies and ministry units. The Commission continues to consult widely in this work.

4.4 Parish investments in Solar Panels and other initiatives

In 2018, through the Parish Return process, parishes were asked to report on specific initiatives they had undertaken to reduce environmental impacts and deal with the changing climate.

36% of parishes reported that they have solar panels installed, with many other parishes continuing to actively investigate this option.

70% reported they have been actively working to improve the energy efficiency of parish buildings, for example through installing insulation, weather seals, high efficiency LED lighting, and upgrading appliances and heating/cooling systems to more energy efficient options.

Given the recent drought that has impacted much of our Diocese, and the resultant bushfires, water security has been a key concern for many rural and regional areas. 55% of parishes reported undertaking initiatives to improve water-efficiency and make gardens more water-efficient and resilient to extreme weather and 19% of parishes reported that they had installed water tanks.

47% of parishes reported that they had provided sermons and intercessions on the topic of care of creation, climate change and reducing our environmental footprint, whilst 38% reported providing practical support (including theological and/or spiritual) to those impacted by the changing climate (e.g. in rural and regional areas).

4.5 Property Developments

The Diocese continues to consider and pursue various building development opportunities. Environmental sustainability is an essential consideration in the development of any new facilities as we strive to ensure that the Diocese minimises its contribution to the mean global surface temperature rise.

4.6 Anglican Diocesan Services

Anglican Diocesan Services (ADS) remains committed reducing its environmental footprint.

Internally the premises the ADS occupies (leased) has leading environmental credentials for water and energy saving initiatives, LED lighting and 60 kilowatts solar panels installed. The ADS also has toner cartridge recycling and paper/cardboard recycling in place.

More broadly the ADS is undertaking a review of power and water usage and actively pursuing procurement strategies (i.e. solar panels, bulk energy agreements) for energy and water services to further maximise efficiencies for our parishes and agencies and enhance environmental sustainability.

4.7 ADS Fleet

The way we choose and use ADS Fleet vehicles has a direct effect on fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, safety and cost. ADS Fleet has a responsibility to minimise the various negative impacts of our vehicles.

ADS Fleet has adopted six key elements to manage fleet emissions:

- 1. Vehicle Selection** - Every vehicle replacement is an opportunity to reduce emissions
- 2. Vehicle Maintenance** - Daily Driver Checks, professional focus on reliability and vehicle enhancement and not just cost maintenance
- 3. Vehicle allocation / Deployment** - Best fit for task rather than personal preference
- 4. Vehicle operation** - Safe, Smooth and attentive driving and use of bio fuels
- 5. Alternatives to driving** – Public transport, walking, teleconferencing and video conferencing
- 6. Additional considerations** – In vehicle monitoring, utilisation analysis and eco driving

4.7.1. Vehicle Selection. ADS Fleet aims to lease the lowest-emission vehicles that will meet the agency's business transport needs safely and efficiently. ADS Fleet treats every vehicle replacement as an opportunity to improve the fleet's environmental profile. The following is considered:

- Bearing in mind the current utilisation of the vehicle being replaced, is there a problem with moving to a smaller model?
- If the same size vehicle is necessary, is there a hybrid or electric alternative?
- Considering current needs, is there a requirement to replace the vehicle at all?
- Meet air pollution standard of Euro 5 or 6
- Tailpipe CO₂ g/KM emissions of equal to or less than 200 grams per kilometre
- Fuel lifecycle of equal to or less than 280 grams per kilometre
- Fuel consumption of equal to or less than combined figure of 8 liters per 100 kilometers

All vehicle information is sourced from the greenvehicleguide.gov.au

ADS Fleet in consultation with end users is decommissioning all legacy 4WD diesel powered vehicles due to the high emissions and fuel use.

4.7.2. Vehicle Maintenance. Keep vehicles well maintained—they will be more efficient, safer and more reliable. Vehicle maintenance, in terms of emissions management, falls into two broad categories:

- Scheduled servicing and maintenance (performed by an approved provider)
- Regular checks and basic maintenance (performed by the driver / responsible manager)
- Educating drivers about tyre pressures, vehicle weights, aerodynamic drag and the additional energy required

4.7.3. Vehicle Allocation / deployment. ADS Fleet works with end users to enable share or pool vehicles wherever possible so that the lower-emission vehicles are always available for use. Logbooks should be maintained for all vehicles and all journeys and / or the odometer readings need to be entered at each fueling. The data gathered is essential for effective fleet management, emissions management and to inform replacement decisions.

4.7.4. Vehicle Operation. Simple driving choices and techniques can have a real impact on emissions reduction. Drivers can minimise fuel consumption and emissions with little effort.

- ADS Fleet has developed “The Driver Guide” which details driving tips and techniques to reduce emissions, improve safety and reduce vehicle wear and tear.
- ADS Fleet recommends that all ADS Fleet vehicle are refueled using E10 fuels or bio diesel

4.7.5. Alternatives to Driving. Using a vehicle less frequently is an effective way to reduce exhaust emissions. Alternatives to driving an ADS Fleet vehicle, or whether transport is even necessary, should be considered for each intended journey. Alternatives include video and teleconferencing. If travel is required, public transport or walking may be viable options. ADS Fleet works with end user groups to evaluate supporting modes of transport.

- Replacing ADS Fleet vehicles with hire vehicles for specialist needs or occasional requirements’
- Recommending use of Public Transport and Communication technology

4.7.6 Additional Considerations.

- **Eco Driving** - ADS Fleet incorporates a vehicle emissions reduction component into its driver induction programs. Often referred to as 'eco-driving', such training focuses on the driver responsibilities and behaviors referred to in Key Element 4.
- **Plug in electric / hybrid vehicles** – Over 2021-2022 ADS Fleet has deployed three (3) Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV), four (4) hybrid electric vehicles and has one (1) electric vehicle on order. ADS Fleet continues to actively evaluate current generation electric vehicles for pilot in urban centers however localised charging points will need to be installed to support these vehicle types.
- **In-vehicle Monitoring Systems and Fleet Optimisation Services** - In-vehicle Monitoring Systems (IVMS), also known as 'telematics', consist of hardware installed in the vehicle to track and monitor use, and a communication device to transmit and receive information. ADS Fleet has three vehicles fitted with IVMS systems as a pilot to establish what metrics can be established and reported on.

While each key element contributes to emission reduction, they are intended to be integrated to deliver optimal environmental outcomes. ADS Fleet vehicle's emissions output depends largely on the type of fuel it uses (e.g. fossil fuel, biofuel, electricity) and the amount of fuel it consumes.

Vehicle requirements and utilisation vary widely across agencies. From large, modified four-wheel-drive vehicles operating in rural areas, to city office pool vehicles only driven locally.

To achieve optimal and sustained ADS fleet emission reductions it is necessary to gain the support and cooperation of Boards, senior management and individual drivers. The ADS Fleet policy that is in place limits procurement to motor vehicles that are under the maximum carbon dioxide (CO₂)/grams per kilometre rating. A phased implementation model has been adopted to effectively incorporate the key elements into the integrated management of ADS's fleet over the next 5 years.

4.8 Schools

Environmental considerations remain a key priority for our Diocesan and Company schools. Our schools continue to update their master plans for future growth, expansion and refurbishment.

As noted previously environmental sustainability is an essential consideration in the development of any new facilities as we strive to ensure that the Diocese minimises its contribution to the mean global surface temperature rise.

Initiatives include site review to ensure buildings are designed and situated to maximise northerly aspects, installation of solar panels and water tanks, use of LED lighting, installation of energy efficient appliances, water wise landscaping etc.

The majority of our schools have solar panels already installed. As noted the ADS is working with the schools in regard to further procurement options for solar panels and bulk energy agreements for energy and water services.

In relation to water efficiency, all schools look to capture water through the use of tanks where appropriate for use on garden beds and playing fields. Water saving devices are installed in bathrooms (i.e. dual flush toilets).

At a student level most of the schools have segregated garbage collection to maximise recycling and many schools have active programs in relation to the environment and

sustainability. For example at Canberra Girls Grammar School (CGGS) the Senior School Environment Club set out an ambitious agenda in 2018:

- To reduce waste around the school, particularly in the areas of plastic, e-waste and energy consumption
- To create a Community Garden
- To raise awareness in the school of environmental issues

To achieve these, the students firstly made an informative film, which increased awareness and increased club numbers. They then held a “clothes swap” to encourage recycling and raise funds towards the community garden. A submission was made to the P&F to purchase drink-bottle refill stations to reduce waste of plastic bottles.

The Junior School continues to be part of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative. With the introduction of the Green Guru class leadership position last year, each class carefully maintained the recycling through a three bin system.

A Junior School vegetable garden thrives under the care of a co-curricular gardening group, the Grammar Green Thumbs. Food scraps are composted for use in the garden and mixed recyclables and paper are collected for recycling.

The Environment Committee, under the leadership of the Environment Captain, were active in encouraging waste wise behaviours and environmental messages. Students were encouraged to be aware of the use of packaging with Wednesdays being ‘No Waste Wednesdays’ with students not using cling film or other non-recyclable materials in their lunch boxes.

4.9 *Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn (ACPT) – Investment Guidelines*

The ACPT’s Investment Policy Guidelines reflect Synod’s 2015 resolution that the Diocese should not invest in companies involved in fossil fuel extraction and related downstream activities of transport and energy generation. As recommended by our Synod, the ACPT looks for opportunities in the renewable energy industry that meet the investment criteria.

The Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn remains committed to upholding its obligations under the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 and further reducing our environmental footprint.

4.10 *Diocesan Climate Change Action Plan Steering Committee*

In December 2021, Bishop-in-Council approved the establishment of Steering Committee to progress the development of the Diocesan Climate Change Action Plan to enable a coherent Diocesan response to climate change. This will set the course for the Diocese for the next phase of its work in this area.