



## **REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD**

### **Protection of the Environment Canon**

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle has implemented a Mission Statement to “Participate in the world as global citizens through creating a sustainable future by promoting awareness and action on environmental issues”. Significant progress has been made to live into this mission statement by reducing our environmental footprint and improving environmental sustainability across our parishes and in Diocesan agencies.

### **Anglican EcoCare Newcastle Diocese**

EcoCare met regularly throughout 2021, in person and on zoom.

Early in the year EcoCare members who are synod members presented two questions to 2021 Synod: the first about the possibility of a broad tree planting campaign across the diocese, and the second about the diocese’s investments in fossil fuel extraction and what plan the diocese might develop to divest from Fossil Fuel Extraction.

We have engaged in the ongoing work of education on climate change and climate action through the diocese via email, diocesan memo’s and expanding social media presence.

As the year progressed a number of parishes initiated Parish EcoCare Groups, who we liaised with and encouraged in the work they could do locally. Part of this work was connecting parish groups with local Landcare groups and local councils to discover what local tree planting programs were already operating.

In May, members of EcoCare as well as other diocesan clergy attended the May 21 School Strike for Climate at Civic Park in Newcastle.

In August numerous parishes took part in the National Tree Planting Day. EcoCare has been promoting a tree planting strategy on Anglican properties in the diocese.

For the Season of Creation in September through to October 4, members of EcoCare recorded sermons for each Sunday for use across the parishes. Many parishes shared the sermons on their social media.

In October many parishes participated in the ‘Ring out the Bells’ action for the climate emergency, coinciding with the start of COP26 in Glasgow, with some parishes livestreaming their 30 mins of bell ringing. Dr Di Rayson and Canon Andrew Eaton from EcoCare also met with the Christ Church Cathedral Spirituality Group to discuss the Spirituality of Climate and Ecology, and how prayer and contemplation can move us to action. We hope to engage more parishes in this way in 2022.



We also began working on legislation asking the diocese to divest from investment in Fossil Fuels, and a motion encouraging the diocese to use Hybrid or Electric cars where possible, both to be presented at the next Synod.

### **NSW Government Sustainability Advantage Program**

Newcastle Anglican are participants in the NSW Government Sustainability Advantage program (SA). The SA program looks to educate and coordinate industry sector development of sustainability initiatives and practices and provides financial assistance packages to promote sustainability.

### **Reducing our environmental footprint**

Newcastle Anglican continues to integrate newer technologies with higher energy efficiency ratings to cost effectively reduce carbon emissions & enable Business Continuity. The major PV solar installations to 8 residential care facilities have resulted in significant efficiencies and cost savings.

Other initiatives include:

- Installation of LED Lighting
- HVAC Systems with high energy star ratings
- Energy efficient hot water systems
- Replacing old appliances with more energy efficient appliances (white goods and others)
- Commencing a trial of hybrid vehicles in the motor fleet
- Switching to biodegradable PPE options
- Waste reduction initiatives