

Proposal to Change the Parish of Cabramatta to a Provisional Parish

(A Report from the Georges River Regional Council)

The Proposal

1. The proposal to change the Parish of Cabramatta to a Provisional Parish was made by the Minister and Churchwardens of the Soldiers Memorial Church, Cabramatta. It was considered by the Georges River Regional Council on 11 February 1997.

2. The requirements of the Parishes Ordinance have been complied with.

Parish Information

3. The Parish of Cabramatta was created in 1955 from the Parish of Cabramatta and Canley Vale. The Rev Ian Fauchon has been rector since 1988 and Rev Albert Leung the Assistant Minister since 1990.

4. The parish has experienced financial difficulties in the last two years. It has found it hard to pay its assessments, meet its loan repayments and has underpaid its ministers.

5. According to the NCLS of 1991, there are 26,000 people living in Cabramatta. Of these, 2,100 indicate adherence to the Anglican denomination (this is a **decrease** of 9.9% since 1981).

- 29% of the population were born in Australia.
- 2.5% of the population were born in other English speaking countries.
- 64% of the population were born in non-English speaking countries.

6. For this reason a Chinese speaking congregation is part of the church family. This congregation has grown to a current average attendance of 89 per week since its establishment in 1984.

7. The English speaking attendance has fallen from 89 per week in 1989 to 68 in 1996. This decrease reflects the community pattern of Anglo-Celtic people moving out of the area.

8. Sunday service figures (current to October 1996) are as follows -

Time	Held	Average Attendance
9.00 am (English)	Sundays (weekly)	45
11.00 am (Chinese)	Sundays (weekly)	89

6.00 pm (English)	Sundays (weekly)	23
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9. The parish struggles each year to meet its financial commitments, but has been able to plant a new Chinese congregation at Minto. Some financial support has been supplied each year since 1993 but this ceased at the end of 1996.

10. Since 1989 the parish council and churchwardens have included members from both English speaking and Chinese speaking congregations.

11. In 1996 the parish staff consisted of the minister, assistant minister (Chinese), and full-time lay worker (ministering at Minto).

12. The Youth Group of 45 young people is, with the exception of four people, of Asian extraction.

13. The parish is restructuring with the English speaking ministry to regroup with the neighbouring parish of St Johns Park and for Cabramatta to become a Chinese parish.

14. The restructured parish of Cabramatta will need some help, at least for 2 years, to be viable. It is hoped to accomplish this without any outside support by way of grants.

15. The reduction in assessments, temporarily, would assist in this goal being realised.

16. A summary of the financial position of the parish for the last 3 years is given below -

	1994	1995	1996	1997
	\$	\$	\$	Budget
				\$
Receipts				
Offeratories	119,514	125,542	125,796	108,000
Interest	186	1,127	659	-
Investments Redeemed	-	2,000	8,000	-
Grants	37,150	24,600	24,239	-
Other	17,131	24,004	18,218	8,300
Total	173,981	177,273	178,912	116,300
Payments				
Stipends and allowances	113,720	108,149	121,173	85,023
Assessments	9,340	11,360	13,153	10,800
Missions	6,550	7,322	8,864	-
Other	35,765	41,586	45,872	20,477
Total	165,375	168,417	189,032	116,300

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17. Particulars of Church Trust property.

Building	Value of Land and Improvements	Condition of Buildings
Church	\$605,500	Fair
Old rectory	\$143,000	Fair
Church hall	\$304,000	Fair
Second rectory	\$175,000	Fair

18. At 31 December 1996 the parish had parishioners' loans of \$1,000 and it owed the Finance and Loans Board \$8,270, being the balance of a loan taken out in 1995 to do repairs to the church building.

Recommendation

19. The Georges River Regional Council, with the consent of the parish council, provisionally reclassified Cabramatta as a provisional parish from 1 January 1997 and recommends that Synod confirm the reclassification.

For and on behalf of the Georges River Regional Council.

GEOFF HUARD
Archdeacon of Georges River

19 August 1997