



Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney

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Gilbulla Conference Centre - 1 May 2001

This circular is to advise synod members, parishes and other interested parties in the Diocese of a significant decision taken by the Standing Committee of Synod at its meeting on 30 April 2001 concerning the Gilbulla property.

At that meeting Standing Committee received and debated a report which examined –

- (a) the present situation of the property (physically, financially and in terms of management and staff) and the urgent essential services work now required,
- (b) a development proposal to further upgrade Gilbulla's facilities, and
- (c) other alternatives to the development proposed.

Standing Committee expressed its deep appreciation for the very considerable skill and commitment demonstrated by the Gilbulla Board of Management and the staff led by Mavis Hedrik over the last three years and acknowledged that the centre was in all respects in the best condition now that it has been for many years. Gilbulla represents a significant Diocesan resource and the property evokes strong historic and emotional ties for many people. It has become both an icon in its own right and a symbol of the Diocese's commitment to conference activities. The Standing Committee reaffirmed its commitment to a Diocesan conference facility.

Never-the-less, despite the much improved management over the last few years, and with or without the proposed development, as a conference centre Gilbulla suffers from some physical disadvantages and is likely to remain expensive to operate. Without the proposed development Gilbulla would find it increasingly difficult to meet even its normal operating costs. Even if the proposed development was completed a number of other significant obstacles would remain, and the proposal would require the injection of substantial Diocesan funds in order for Gilbulla to be financially viable.

Standing Committee therefore received the report and resolved to –

1. agree in principle to the sale of Gilbulla (with a target date of Spring 2001 for the sale), and
2. request that the Secretariat work closely with Anglican Youthworks to achieve the replacement of Gilbulla with another suitable Diocesan conference facility, and report back to Standing Committee with specific details (including any required variations to trusts or proposed new Ordinances) as soon as an assessment of the preferred option is complete.

The Diocese's strategy is to sell the property as an on-going business supported by the good reputation the centre enjoys, the skills of the present management and staff, and the strength of the current and future bookings. This strategy requires that Gilbulla maintain continuity of staff and bookings and every effort will be made to encourage the staff through this difficult time while a suitable buyer is identified and arrangements finalised for the transfer of the business. Contact will also be made with organisations holding bookings to assure them of the intention to maintain continuity of the business.

MARTIN THEARLE
Deputy General Manager, Secretarial