



Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney

WOLLONGONG REGION

ANGLICAN CHURCH CENTRE, 74 CHURCH ST. WOLLONGONG , N.S.W. 2500 AUSTRALIA
Phone: (02) 4201 1800 Fax: (02) 4228 4296 e-mail: office@wollongong.anglican .asn.au

18 October 2018

The General Manager
Shoalhaven City Council
P.O. Box 42
NOWRA
NSW 2541
Sent via email: council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

Shoalhaven City Council

Received

25 OCT 2018

File No. DA18/2102/3

Referred to: E. Weston

Dear Sir,

DA18/2102 Demolition of Holy Trinity Church, hall and shed

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment in relation to this development application (DA). The Wollongong Regional Office of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney supports the demolition of some church buildings (hall and admin / youth shed) and relocation (within the site) of the main church building as proposed under a development application (DA 18/2102) (as amended by the applicant).

This office previously objected to the listing of the Holy Trinity, Huskisson, group of church buildings as a local heritage item. Council and the NSW Government subsequently supported this submission and in 2005 determined to not list the church building as an item of local heritage.

The updated heritage assessment of the Church property, undertaken as part of the Heritage Management Strategy, prepared by GBA Heritage confirms that the church building does not meet the threshold for inclusion as a local heritage item for any of the statutory Heritage Assessment criteria. GBA confirms that demolition of the buildings is an acceptable outcome.

The proposed relocation of church building and demolition of hall / shed will facilitate the divestment of the church lands, with the prospective purchaser seeking site redevelopment as part of a site rezoning. The purchaser has publicly committed to

repurposing the church building within the proposed development, in such a way that the building will be preserved, maintained and available for the community enjoyment. The adjoining site (lot 9) is zoned Special Uses Car Parking indicating council's objectives are for redevelopment of this part of the town centre.

Over the past two decades the Wollongong Regional Office has supported the parish plans to adapt to community needs and provide more appropriate church buildings through the rationalization of its the property assets. The Huskisson congregation has outgrown the Huskisson church building and has been renting temporary facilities at the Vincentia Primary School building since 2014. The Standing Committee of the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney passed a 2017 Ordinance permitting the sale of the Huskisson church lands to facilitate a wider property masterplan. It is intended that the sale proceeds will be allocated towards the acquisition of a centrally located Vincentia site in close proximity to where the congregation currently meets, and the construction of a more appropriate contemporary multi-purpose building. The parish intends that this building be utilised for many activities to serve the surrounding community.

Rejection of the DA would be counter-productive if Council's intention is to preserve a building with some degree of heritage value or local interest. Rejection would immediately de-value the land and scare off our prospective buyer and any alternative buyers. The opportunity to complete this sale so the buyer can preserve, maintain and use the building, relocated on-site and re-purposed within a complying development, would be lost. Instead the property would remain in church ownership with no incentive to maintain, the building would remain unsuitable and unused, and would continue to deteriorate.

In summary we support the proposed DA for relocation / demolition and look forward to hearing of the Council's determination.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Hayward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Hayward
Bishop of Wollongong