



Local Government Association Tasmania

COV 6

Our Ref: KS/MA

File No:

21 May 2018

The Right Reverend Dr Richard Condie
GPO Box 748
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Dr Condie

Sale of Churches and Cemeteries

I am writing on behalf of the Members of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, the 29 councils.

At our General Meeting held on Friday 18 May, Members voted in support of the following motion:

That LGAT issue a public statement on behalf of Members:

- 1. Acknowledging the importance of redress for victims of abuse;*
- 2. Noting the concern being expressed across a number of Tasmanian communities about the sale of their local churches and cemeteries;*
- 3. Seeking that the Anglican Church ensure that those communities are not being made to pay unfairly for the actions of leaders in the Church; and*
- 4. That there is genuine consideration given to the huge impact on communities particularly in rural and regional Tasmania.*


Aspects of the debate included the concern being expressed in some communities about the disproportionate impact in rural communities where there was no alternative place of worship within a reasonable distance, the cultural and heritage values of some of the proposed sites, the lack of genuine engagement to date; that not all the funding was to be used for redress and the perception of a cash grab, and future lack of access to cemeteries for families.

The LGAT will be issuing the public statement in the form of a letter to the editor to each of the three regional Tasmanian papers (attached).

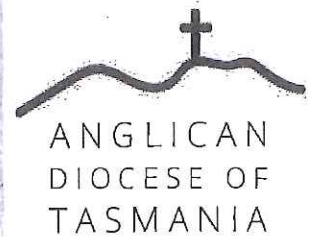
As Councils are often the first point of call for raising community concerns, I encourage the Church to make contact with councils to understand the extent and nature of those concerns in each community.

Yours sincerely

Dr Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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28 May 2018

Dr Katrena Stephenson
Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Association of Tasmania
326 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Dr Stephenson

Sale of Churches and Cemeteries

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2018, which Bishop Condie has handed to me for response. Thank you too for passing on some of the concerns that your members are hearing through local communities.

We are at the very start of the process, and dependent on a decision of Synod to be able to consult more widely with local communities. If the Synod does decide to pass the proposed bill, there will be a period of six months in which we will be able to consult with communities and church communities to ensure that the method of raising funds to pay for redress will have as light an impact on local communities as possible. We certainly intend to engage with local councils during this process.

Local church communities will be able to make submissions to Diocesan Council for exemption of buildings from sale. One of the key criteria for these applications is distance or isolation. Local communities can also make representations to Diocesan Council by writing to me, at the addresses contained at the bottom of this letter, or by email at registrar@anglicantas.org.au.

Yours sincerely



James Oakley
Registrar / General Manager

A church for Tasmania, making disciples of Jesus

1st Floor Church House 125 Macquarie St Hobart TAS 7000 | GPO Box 748 Hobart TAS Australia 7001
+61 3 6220 2020 | www.anglicantas.org.au