



30 July 2018

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA:

- (1) **MAYORAL MINUTES**
MM8/2018 Anglican Diocese of Newcastle - Property Rationalisation2

Mayoral Minute

Report No. MM8/2018

General Manager's Unit



MAYORAL MINUTE No. MM8/2018

SUBJECT: ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE - PROPERTY RATIONALISATION

RECOMMENDATION

That Council writes to The Right Reverend Dr Peter Stuart, Bishop of Newcastle, outlining the concern that the rationalisation of churches in the Cessnock local government area may have in regards to the provision of vital community services, the potential loss of accessibility to historic cemeteries and buildings and the loss of key community hubs that the church provides.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

Following a community meeting held at Mulbring on Sunday 29 July 2018, concern has been raised in regards to the potential loss of vital community assets from the Anglican Church rationalisation of churches and property throughout the Hunter Region, and in particular the impacts this may have on the Cessnock LGA.

Churches and church services meet a number of community needs and provide a hub for local communities, something that is particularly relevant in low socio economic areas. Services provided to the community outside of congregational services include play centres, youth activity, Op Shops just to name a few. The historic links to churches and the community is not something that can be easily replaced. There is also justified community concern in regards to accessibility of many of the cemeteries, columbarium and memorial gardens that are associated with various church property if the proposed rationalisation plan goes ahead.

In the Cessnock area there are plans which will affect churches including Branxton, Cessnock, Kurri/Weston and Mt Vincent.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report