

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT CANON 2007

Canon No. 11, 2007

A canon to assist in the protection of the environment.

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

Preamble

- A. This Church acknowledges God's sovereignty over his creation through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. In Genesis it says that "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." In 1990 the Anglican Consultative Council gave modern form to this task when it declared that one of the five marks of the mission of the Church was "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth".
- C. This Canon gives form to this mark of mission in the life of the Anglican Church of Australia.
- D. This Church recognises the importance of the place of creation in the history of salvation.
- E. This Church acknowledges the custodianship of the indigenous peoples of this land.
- F. This Church recognizes that climate change is a most serious threat to the lives of the present and future generations. Accordingly, this Canon seeks to reduce the release of greenhouse gases by this Church and its agencies.

Short title and principal canon

- 1. This Canon may be cited as the "Protection of the Environment Canon 2007".

Mechanisms to assist in protecting the environment

- 2. (1) Every diocese which adopts this Canon undertakes to reduce its environmental footprint by increasing the water and energy efficiency of its current facilities and operations and by ensuring that environmental sustainability is an essential consideration in the development of any new facilities and operations, with a view to ensuring that the diocese minimalises its contribution to the mean global surface temperature rise.
- (2) Every diocese which adopts this Canon undertakes to establish such procedures and process such as an environment commission, or similar body as are necessary to assist the diocese and its agencies to:

- (a) give leadership to the Church and its people in the way in which they can care for the environment,
- (b) use the resources of God's creation appropriately and to consider and act responsibly about the effect of human activity on God's creation,
- (c) facilitate and encourage the education of Church members and others about the need to care for the environment, use the resources of God's creation properly and act responsibly about the effect of human activity on God's creation, and,
- (d) advise and update the diocese on the targets needed to meet the commitment made in sub-section (1);
- (e) urge its people to pray in regard to these matters.

Reporting

- 3. (1) Every diocese which adopts this Canon undertakes to report to each ordinary session of the General Synod as to its progress in reducing its environmental footprint in order to reach the undertaking made in accordance with sub-section (1) of section 2.
- (2) Any report will outline the targets that were set, the achievements made, and difficulties encountered.

Adoption of Canon by Diocese

- 4. The provisions of this Canon affect the order and good government of the Church within a diocese and the Canon shall not come into force in any diocese unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts the Canon.
