



Distribution of the Net Proceeds of Diocesan Property beneficially owned by Worshipping Communities

Approved by: Diocesan Council
Amendments:

14 June 2012

File #423(a)/401

Introduction

The Church Sites Fund Statute 1974 provides in section 8 that where a Parish Council recommends or agrees that land in the beneficial ownership¹ of a parish is not required or that it is expedient to dispose of such land and such land is sold, the proceeds of sale shall be applied by The Perth Diocesan Trustees on the recommendation of the Parish Council and with the consent of Diocesan Council towards:

- (a) the purchase of other land in the Parish to be held by the Trustee pursuant to this Statute;
- (b) the erection modification or completion of a building or buildings in the Parish;
- (c) other purposes in the Parish.²

1. Where property is beneficially owned by a Parish and is surplus to Parish ministry requirements:

Diocesan Council will only consent to the recommendations of a Parish Council where the following conditions have at least been met:

up to 70% of net sale proceeds will go to the Parish for purposes approved by Diocesan Council and PDT in accordance with the Church Sites Fund Statute 1974, with the remainder to the Diocese for the Church Sites Fund.

2. In other situations where an alteration or abolition in terms of the Ordering of Worshipping Communities Statute 2007 has been effected:

- a. **Where property is surplus when Parishes amalgamate** - up to 25% of net sale proceeds to be put towards the Parishes amalgamation costs and the remainder to the Diocese for the Church Sites Fund, and
- b. **Where a Parish is abolished and property is surplus to Diocesan requirements** – net sale proceeds to go to the Diocese for the Church Sites Fund.

¹ "All land acquired by the Trustee by grant or under the Church Lands Statute 1881 or The Church Sites Fund and Free of Interest Loans Fund Statute 1965 which has been in the beneficial use and occupancy of an ecclesiastical district and is free of debt to the Trustee is deemed to belong beneficially to such ecclesiastical district."

² Further, the Statute also provides that: "Proceeds of sale not so applied shall be paid by the Trustee to The Church Sites Fund free of any beneficial interest of such ecclesiastical district and to be used for the purposes of this Statute."