

# MPC November 2013 Parish Council Update

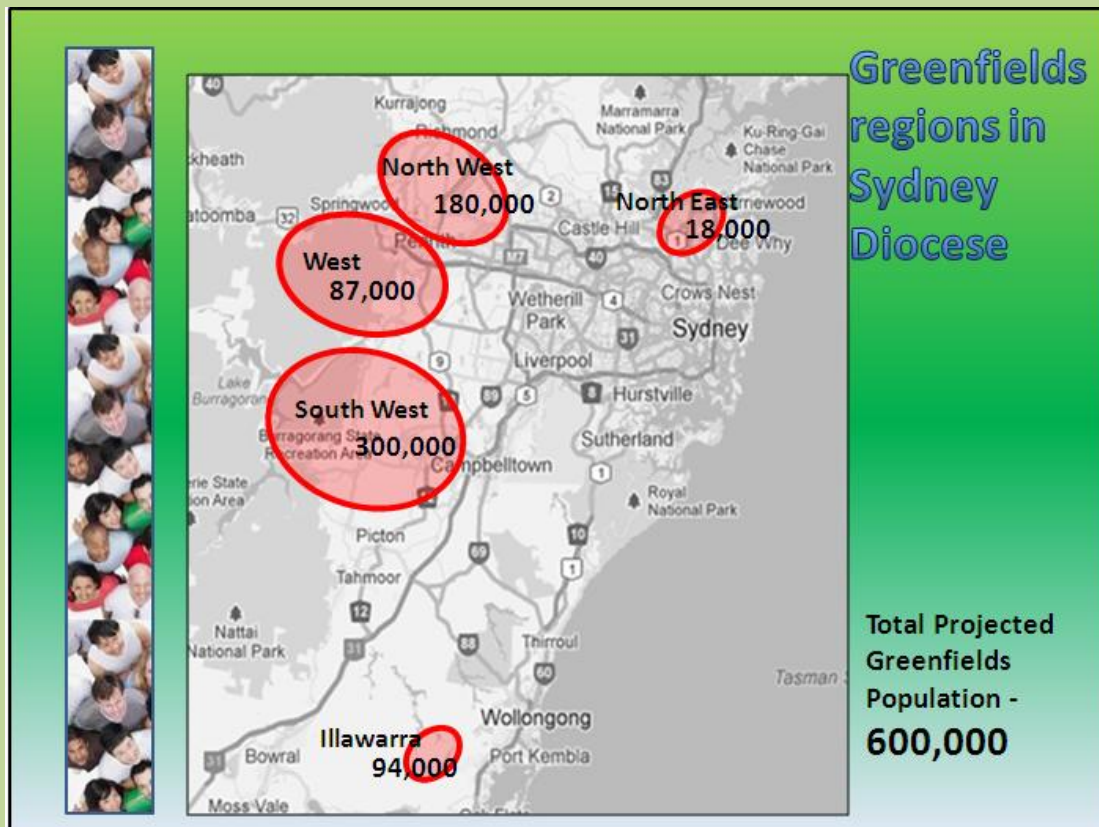
## Parish Greenfield land acquisitions levy



Synod 2013 has approved the continuation of the Church Land Acquisition Levy calculated at 2.16% of net operating receipts in 2014 to raise \$2 million towards the acquisition of land for new church sites across the diocese. The levy has also been approved to raise an additional \$2 million in 2015.

At Synod 2013 parish representatives requested that the MPC provide a background and a progress update on the spending of the levy to Parish Councils across the Diocese.

The vast majority of us are meeting on land and in buildings provided through the forward planning and generosity of previous generations. Today there is also a mission field located within the Greenfields areas located on the fringes of metropolitan Sydney where rapid population growth of over 600,000 people is forecast to occur over the next few decades. In contrast to the several hundred sites we have in urban areas, we own very few if any sites in these new land release areas.



This presents a strategic opportunity to establish a physical presence in Greenfields areas by securing a number of strategically located sites as a base for ministry growth. Given the 10 year lead time involved in acquiring land and providing infrastructure, if we do not act now to acquire suitable land the opportunity to secure such sites may be lost.

Acquiring suitable land typically costs in the vicinity of \$2.5 million. Whilst beyond the capacity of any one parish, on behalf of the Diocese as a whole the MPC has been charged with acquiring land as a significant contribution to future ministry in these new suburbs. It should be noted however that this is only one of a number of evangelistic and church planting strategies that will need to be developed.

All of the funds raised by the levy are to be held in short term deposit accounts specifically designated for the proposed projects. The MPC and Mission Board of Standing Committee is also working on a multi-faceted funding strategy for the construction of new ministry centres on the lands to be acquired.

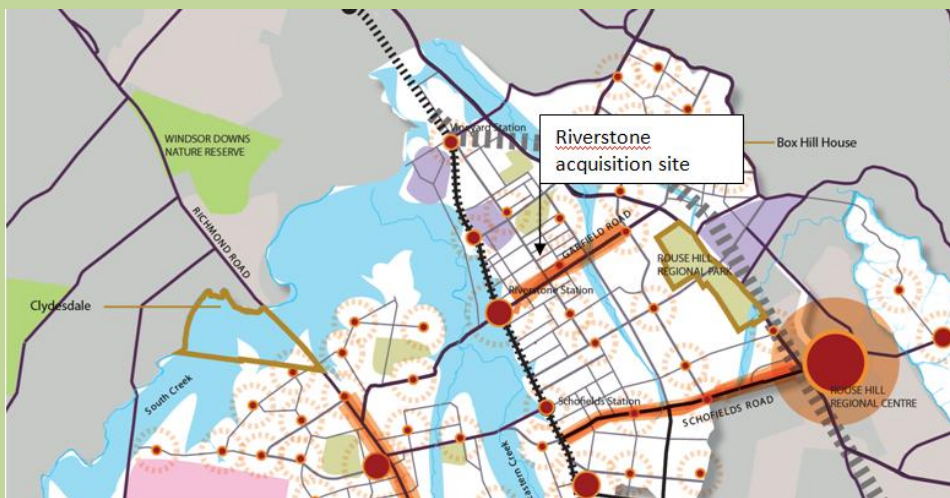
For the more detailed MPC presentation to Synod go to <http://www.sds.asn.au/site/104401.asp?ph=sy>

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## Levy used to acquire Riverstone Site

The population in the parish of Riverstone in the North West of Sydney is forecast to grow from approximately 10,000 people to over 80,000 people by 2035.



North West Growth Centre Structure Plan courtesy NSW Government: [www.gcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gcc.nsw.gov.au)

Following a land search over a 3 year period, in October 2013 the MPC acquired a 2.6 hectare site at Riverstone with sufficient land area on which to construct a new ministry centre with sufficient car parking areas and room for future expansion in the coming decades.



“From Horses to houses” at the MPC Riverstone site

From left to right: Bishop Ivan Lee, Mr Scott Lincoln, Secretary MPC, Mr David Winley member MPC



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## Parish Partnership in Mission

The Riverstone land acquisition forged new ground with the local parish who contributed the proceeds of the land sale of the disused St Peters Schofields site. At a cost of \$2.6 million, 1.3% million was funded by all parishes across the Diocese through the greenfields land acquisition levy and \$1.3 million from the parish of Riverstone, representing a partnership in support of the Diocesan Mission to allow a permanent ministry presence to be established.

Being located on Hamilton Street which is a proposed collector road the site is conveniently accessible to the Riverstone area and also major roadways connecting to both Vineyard and Riverstone East.



Riverstone Infrastructure works have commenced for new housing.

The site and surrounds are predominantly rural lands with the first of new housing developments now commenced to transform the area including new schools, neighbourhood centres and upgrades to roads and public transport for the main population growth projected to occur over the next two decades.

Planning will now commence for the construction of a new ministry centre including submission of a DA with Blacktown City Council.

The MPC is actively searching for new land in the identified growth areas across the Diocese and will provide an update on progress made on a regular basis to all parish councils.

Bishop Ivan Lee and Mr Geoff Kyngdon, Chair Mission Property Committee