BISHOP PETER COMENSOLI TO CHAIR CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION NSW

The Most Reverend Dr Peter A Comensoli DD, STL, MLitt, PhD today takes up his appointment as chairman of Catholic Education Commission NSW (CECNSW).

Currently Bishop of Broken Bay, Bishop Peter fills the vacancy left by the Most Reverend Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, who chaired CECNSW since 2005.

“This is an exciting and challenging time for Catholic education in NSW,” Bishop Peter said.

“Enrolments in NSW Catholic schools are expected to grow by 58,000 to 312,000 by 2031.

“Our challenge is to accommodate those additional students while maintaining the high standard of education and quality learning environments parents have come to expect from our schools.

“In that regard, I welcome the pre-election commitment by the Baird Government, and NSW parliamentarians more generally, to continue investing in Catholic schools across NSW.

“CECNSW will work closely with the Baird Government to target capital funding to those Catholic schools that need it most – those in growth areas and those in need of new investment.”

Bishop Peter also said it was important for governments to support the right of parents to choose a faith-based education for their children by backing Catholic schools with appropriate employment, enrolment and curriculum policies and practices.

CECNSW Executive Director Brian Croke welcomed Bishop Peter’s appointment, saying he would continue the pastoral guidance of his predecessor.

“I want to thank Archbishop Anthony for his leadership over the past decade and I look forward to working closely with Bishop Peter to provide direction in Catholic education to the 11 dioceses and religious institutes that operate our schools, and also to our parents.”

Bishop Peter was born in the Illawarra in 1964 and studied Commerce at the University of Wollongong. He was ordained a priest in 1992, undertook post-graduate studies in moral philosophy and theology in Rome and Edinburgh, and was made Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney in 2011. In November 2014, he was appointed the third Bishop of Broken Bay diocese.

CECNSW works with Government and other stakeholders on behalf of more than 254,000 students and 27,000 staff in the state’s 588 Catholic schools.

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