

## **Coptic Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust Amendment Bill 2003**

### **Explanatory note**

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

#### Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Coptic Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust Act 1990* to reflect the new Constitution of the Coptic Orthodox Churches in the Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions.

At present, the *Coptic Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust Act 1990* constitutes a Trust to deal with certain property. The trustees of the Trust are the members of the New South Wales State Board of the Coptic Orthodox Church, New South Wales.

On 8 October 2002 a new Constitution of the Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions was approved by His Holiness Shenouda III, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark. Under the new Constitution, it is the Bishop of the Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions who is the sole and exclusive authority in relation to financial matters in churches and in the Diocese.

This Bill amends the *Coptic Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust Act 1990* to reflect that change.

#### Outline of provisions

**Clause 1** sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

**Clause 3** is a formal provision that gives effect to the amendments to the *Coptic Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust Act 1990* set out in Schedule 1.

#### **Schedule 1 Amendments**

**Schedule 1 [5]** amends the definition of *constitution* to reflect the changes made in 2002.

**Schedule 1 [6]** provides that the Bishop is the sole trustee of the Coptic Orthodox Church (NSW) Property Trust.

**Schedule 1 [8]** provides for the Bishop to delegate the Bishop's functions under the Act.

The remainder of the amendments made by Schedule 1 are consequential on those changes.