STATUTE

NAME	DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL (DFC)
PRESIDER	The Bishop OR The Bishop has formally delegated his role as Presider, whenever he is not present, to to an Ordinary ie. Vicar General.
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	Minimum of four (4) Maximum of seven (7) Plus the nominated Presider **noting c 492§1 must consist of at least three members of the Christian faithful truly expert in Financial affairs and civil law, outstanding in integrity, and appointed by the Bishop, and c 85-86 re dispensation that may be made by the Bishop*
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS	Vicars-General Diocesan Finance Officer (CFO)
STANDING INVITEES	Chief Operating Officer Chief Governance Officer Director Catholic Community Fund
QUORUM	A quorum shall be: a. The nominated presider or their delegate; Plus at least 50% of the remaining members.
MINIMUM NUMBER OF MEETINGS PER YEAR	Four (4)
SENIOR STAFF ACCOUNTABLE	Chair Treasury Board (*note the DFA/CFO accountable to the Bishop & Trustees directly, but this Board may support)*
SECRETARY	Katy Mooney, Company Secretary & Public Officer companysecretary@mn.catholic.org.au

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Section 1 - Preamble

(1) In 2021 as part of the progress to Many parts, One body, One mission, the Diocesan Advisory Board (**DAB**) was created to incorporate the then Diocesan Finance Council with the other Boards and governing structures of the Diocese, with a view to operating in a similar fashion to a corporate Board, but for the time-being to act in an advisory capacity only.

(2) The first meeting of the DAB was held in February 2022 and has operated since that time.

(3) In 2025, Bishop Kennedy reviewed the Diocesan governance structure, and the Diocesan Governance Framework was created with the Diocesan Finance Council to be included in that framework as a Council focused on canonical functions of the Diocesan Finance Council as outlined in c492.

(4) These revised statutes are in response to the creation of that Framework.

Section 2 - Protocols

(5) The operations of this Council are to be governed by the Diocese Protocols for all Councils, Boards and their Committees.

Section 3 - Functions

(6) General

a. The DFC fulfils the purposes identified in the code of canon law and other church legislation
b. When the DFC fulfils its functions it does so in relationship with the diocesan bishop, not the civil diocesan entity
c. To fulfil its function under canon 493i, the DFC should be aware of the accounts of non-juridic subsidiary diocesan organisations that are not juridic persons (e.g. catholic schools office, catholic care, catholic community fund etc.)

(7) Specific

a. To prepare an annual diocesan budget of foreseen income and expenditures (c. 493)
b. To examine the annual diocesan report of revenue and expenses (c.493, see canon 494 § 4)
c. Highlight perceived risks
d. Ensure there are adequate management structures in situ within the agencies of the diocese
e. Review and assess the financial management of the agencies of the diocese
f. Review diocesan accounts on a regular basis

g. To review and respond to the annual financial reports presented by administrators of any ecclesiastical goods whatsoever which have not been legitimately exempted from the power of governance of the diocesan bishop (c. 1287 § 1)

h. To elect a temporary diocesan finance officer if the diocesan finance officer is elected the diocesan administrator sede vacante (c. 423 § 2)

i. To give its **consent** to the diocesan bishop before he performs the following three acts:

j. to place acts of **diocesan** extraordinary administration defined by the conference of bishops (c. 1277; the college of consultors must also give its consent)

k. to alienate goods of public juridic persons subject to his authority, and to alienate diocesan goods, which belong to the **diocesan** stable patrimony and whose value falls between the minimum and maximum amounts established by the conference of bishops (c. 1292 § 2; the college of consultors and "those concerned" must also give their consent)

    i. to perform any transaction which can worsen the patrimonial condition of public juridic persons subject to his authority or of the diocese, which belong to the stable patrimony and whose value falls between the minimum and maximum established by the conference of bishops (c. 1295; the college of consultors and "those concerned" must also give their consent; see canon 1292 § 2)

l. To give its **counsel** to the diocesan bishop before he performs the following seven acts:

    i. to appoint and to remove the diocesan finance officer (c. 494 §§ 2-3; the college of consultors must also give its counsel)

    ii. to impose a moderate tax upon public juridic persons subject to his authority in the diocese (c. 1263; the presbyteral council must also give its counsel)

    iii. to impose an extraordinary tax upon other juridic persons and upon physical persons subject to his authority (c. 1263; the presbyteral council must also give its counsel)

    iv. to place acts of administration which are more important in light of the economic condition of the diocese (c. 1277; the college of consultors must also give its counsel)

    v. to determine the acts placed by public juridic persons subject to him which exceed the limits of ordinary administration (c. 1281 § 1)

    vi. to make a prudent judgment on the investment of money and movable goods assigned to an endowment for the benefit of a foundation (c.1305)

    vii. to reduce, moderate, or commute obligations attached to a foundation (but not foundation Masses) if, through no fault of the administrators, the fulfilment of these obligations becomes impossible because of diminished revenue or some other cause (c. 1310 § 2; "those concerned" must also give their counsel)

m. To give its **counsel** to the diocesan bishop before he approves:
   i. major capital works within the diocese
   ii. financial proposals submitted for consideration

Section 4 - Standing Committees

(8) The Council shall establish the following standing Committees to support it and undertake its works:

a. Strategic Asset Management Committee, with the intention this Committee provides oversight for the strategic asset planning process and strategic acquisition and disposal plans of the Diocese.
b. External Audit & Risk Committee, with the intention this Committee provides oversight and deep exploration of the external audits of the Diocese.

If at any time a standing committee is not established the Council shall bear the responsibility for the functions otherwise to be undertaken by the standing committee.

Section 5 - Notations

(9) If there is any inconsistency between the Protocols and this Statute the later applies to the extent of the inconsistency.

Section 6 - Document Review

(10) This Statute will be reviewed when there is a legislative change, organisational change, delegations change, technology change or at least every 3 years to ensure it continues to be current and effective.

REVISION NO.	PREPARED/REVISED BY AND DATE	AMENDED SECTION(S)	AMENDMENT DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BY AND DATE

Section 7 - Glossary Terms and Definitions

All terms and definitions must be consistent with the *Glossary / Policy Library (catholic.org.au)*

TERM	DEFINITION

[i] http://www.intratext.com/IXT/ENG0017/_INDEX.HTM