



7 October 2025

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION DIOCESE OF CAIRNS

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great joy that I share the exciting news of Wayne Wood's appointment as Deputy Executive Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Cairns (CEDC), on behalf of Bishop Joe Caddy AM.

Wayne has continually demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout his career, beginning at St Teresa's College in Abergowrie and further excelling as Principal at Good Shepherd Catholic College, Mt Isa, and then at St Mary's Catholic College, Woree. His transition to system leadership as Director School Effectiveness in 2023 and his noteworthy performance as Acting Deputy Executive Director in 2024 have truly set him apart as a visionary leader.

Wayne's unwavering commitment to building leadership capability through 'connected autonomy' and his proven oversight of our secondary and P-12 colleges, as well as the boarding elements, have made a significant positive impact across the Diocese.

With impressive academic achievements, including a Bachelor of Education, a Post Graduate Certificate in Catholic Education, and a Master of Theology, Wayne's dedication to lifelong learning is inspiring. His pursuit of ongoing professional growth through programs such as the Catholic Identity Program at the University of Leuven, QELi's Executive Development Leaders Program, and his current participation in the Company Directors Course with the AICD, further underscore his passion for excellence in Catholic education.

Wayne approaches his vocation in Catholic education as a sacred privilege, weaving his deep spirituality into every aspect of his professional life. His faithful service to the Catholic community shines through his active involvement with St. Therese's Parish and the contributions he and his family make to its service arm.

The recruitment process for this role was highly competitive, drawing a talented pool of applicants from all over Australia. I am grateful to the esteemed representatives from the CEDC Board of Governance, Principal Association, and a fellow Executive Director, along with Fr Sabu, Vicar of Schools, who all played important roles in the rigorous and thoughtful discernment process.

Please join me in wholeheartedly congratulating Wayne Wood on this well-deserved appointment. We look forward to the continued growth and faith-filled leadership he will bring to CEDC as he begins his new role in January 2026.

Yours sincerely

Durm O'Riordan

Executive Director