

## **ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 11, 2010**

**Present:** Neil Jones, Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, John Collins, Phil Stephenson, Peter West, Brian Phillips, Nick King

**Apologies:** Col. Foster

**General business: The proposed reclassification of some parks as stated in the draft Local Environment Plan 2010.** The business of the committee meeting was principally confined to the issue of the proposed reclassified land in Orange's Local Environment Plan. Each area of land proposed for reclassification was discussed, and subsequent action for each area agreed upon.

Members of ECCO have done a preliminary survey of the main parks under consideration.

Some of the parks already have active advocates who are planning submissions and petitions.

It was agreed that ECCO will support action on parks where their local communities have expressed a desire for their retention and have expressed a willingness to be involved in appropriate action to retain their parks. It was also agreed that ECCO also support the retention of any parks which has obvious environmental or social benefits of potential.

ECCO support to be in the form of:

- \*Awareness raising among local residents. Many residents surrounding local parks are unaware of the proposed reclassification of their park.
- \* Provision of information about the benefits of local parks and the reasons for retention of their park.
- \* Assistance and support with submissions, petitions doorknocks etc. for those local residents who are prepared to take action.

Please find attached a list of parks proposed for reclassification which have been surveyed by ECCO and the level of support for each park.

Submissions and petitions organised by ECCO to be completed by the first week of February. Deadline for submissions is at the close of business, February 14, 2011.

**Ploughman's Valley:** There is some confusion concerning which reclassification of Ploughman's Valley Wetland affords it the best environmental protection. ECCO to approach Council to obtain advice on this issue. (Neil to talk to David Waddell).

### **Action Re: Ploughman's Valley:**

- Public meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> commencing at 7.30pm at Wentworth Golf Club. Flyers to be distributed via a letterbox drop the week before. Neil to compose letter. Individual submissions will be encouraged also.
- Major media release concerning this issue prior to World Wetlands Day, February 2. Neil to arrange media coverage..

- Members are asked to gather at the park in Stirling Avenue adjoining Ploughman's Valley at 10 am on World Wetlands Day. Members are asked to bring posters etc. advertising support for retention of the site as a wetland, not for commercial development.
- Posters to be constructed to attach to fences surrounding the wetland area.
- Further communication to be made to real estate agents concerning their views on the development of Ploughman's Valley for housing.
- Orange Field Naturalists to be asked to support ECCO in opposing development of the site,

**Action Re: Triangle of land adjacent to the Orange Botanic Gardens:** The Friends of the Botanic Gardens are the main stakeholders concerning this site. Tony to speak to representatives of the Botanic Gardens to ascertain their perspective concerning the classification of this land. ECCO will support whatever action they propose to take.

**Bloomfield Bushland:** Action concerning this site to be determined at the next meeting of the Bloomfield Bushland Action Group, which will include representatives from the Orange Field Nats and ECCO. Input and support will be sought from Cancer Care West and Ronald MacDonald House, also stakeholders.

**Earth First:** Peter West, who is co-coordinating Earth First presented a timetable for future articles for Earth First. Please find the timetable attached. Members are encouraged to suggest and contribute articles.

ECCO to negotiate the purchase of a display stand. Nick to do.

Nick King Secretary.