

MINUTES OF ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 8,2010

Present: Neil Jones, Tony Smith, Phil Stevenson, Peter West, Brian Phillips, Nick King

Apologies: Jenny Smith, Col. Foster, Yvette Black, Susan Sanders

General business: The purpose of the December committee meeting concerned Orange's Local Environment Plan.

Areas of concern in the plan were identified, which included the following:

- Ploughman's Valley wetland- classified as residential in the LEP
- The triangle of land opposite the Orange Botanical Gardens. Classified as residential
- The Bloomfield Bushland. Classified for development
- The proposed South Orange development.
- Various parks, the name and location of which to be announced, which have been identified for reclassification in the LEP

The meeting made a decision to hold a public meeting for the membership and members of the community to discuss the LEP and areas of concern. Council staff to be invited to provide information. The meeting to be held at the ELF on Wednesday, December 15, commencing 8pm.

Committee members to inspect the affected parks on Wednesday, December 15, meeting at 6 Pasadena Place at 8am.

Submissions to be written during January. Assistance from members in writing these submissions will be greatly appreciated. It is a huge job for just a few people. The deadline for submissions will be the second week in February.

ECCO to engage in public awareness campaigns such as:

*Letterbox drops and doorknocks around affected areas to provide residents with information and suggestions for action.

*Encouraging members of the public to sign petitions against any selloff of affected parks etc.

*Photoshoot to be held at Ploughman's Valley on Monday to raise public awareness of the threat to this wetland environment. To be organised with the Central Western Daily.

* ECCO to discuss the LEP and its implications on its regular timeslot on local community radio.

*ECCO to liaise with Orange Field Naturalists, Bloomfield Bushland Group re. Submissions.

Meeting with John Cobb: Brian Phillips and Nick King met with John Cobb, Federal Member for Calare to discuss the national 100% renewable campaign. The discussion was generally amiable, with two main points of disagreement.

- John refused to believe that renewable energy was capable of providing baseload power.
- He also was not convinced that members of the community would agree to pay extra for renewable energy. Coincidentally, the results of a survey appeared the next day in the Australian which indicated that 47% of those surveyed said they would pay extra. Brian to follow this up with John. (see attachment for the survey.)

Brian and Nick to arrange a meeting on the same issue with Andrew Gee, National Party candidate for Orange.

Climate Action Planning meeting: Nick and Brian will be attending a planning meeting of national climate action groups in Port Macquarie on the 12th and 13th of February this year.

Nick King Secretary