

## **ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 15 2009**

**PRESENT:** Peter West, Yvette Black, Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Brian Phillips, Neil Jones, Nick King, Phil; Stephenson, Susan Sanders, Colin Young

**APOLOGIES:** Colin Foster

**Clean up Australia Day:** As discussed at the committee meeting of March 11, a letter has been sent to Orange city Council concerning the alarming number of plastic bottles and supermarket trolleys found during Clean up Australia Day. ECCO requests that Council approach local supermarkets concerning workable trolley retrievable strategies, and for council to recommend to State authorities that a deposit for the return of plastic bottles be introduced.

**Local Environment Plan:** The Local Environment plan was to be made available for public consultation mid April, but its release has been delayed. Members will be informed concerning the eventual release date. Volunteers will be required to assist with the process of evaluation, as it will be a lengthy and comprehensive document.

**Orange Showground:** This item to be placed on the agenda for the forthcoming ECCO general meeting scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>. At this time there should be more information made available to the public concerning various proposals.

ECCO to write to Orange city council requesting to be included as stakeholders in any official discussion on this issue.

**Department of Primary Industry Land Reclassification:** The land in question has now been reclassified for residential development. It will now be included as such on the Local Environment Plan. ECCO will have the opportunity for further involvement when the LEP becomes public. Another opportunity will be when the Development Control plan is released. Contact to be made with New South Wales farmers to gain their input and support, as members from this organization expressed concern about the reclassification of the above area.

**Orange's growth as a city:** A response is being considered concerning recent statements about the growth of Orange as a city. This to be discussed at a future general meeting.

**The Hub:** There are concerns that the hub project no longer fulfils criteria for 3A consent. Further public comment will be invited on this issue. To be placed on the agenda for a later meeting when more information becomes available.

**Natural Burials:** A letter concerning natural burials was sent to Orange City Council from ECCO. No reply has been forthcoming. Nick to follow this up.

**BioBag:** Yvette to invite the biobag distributor to attend the Rotary Enviro Expo in October. Biobag is a fully compostable all purpose bag. Great for putting food scraps in for the composter.

**Home Energy Champions:** Details of this home energy self audit trial have been emailed to all members . Members are urged to participate in this trial, and to send in their completed forms as soon as possible, as the information is required for a meeting with Country Energy on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Sustainable Development Conference:** Neil to apply to attend.

**Glenroi Kitchen Garden Project:** This is a very worthwhile project conducted with the students of Glenroi Heights Primary School. Volunteers are required each Friday during the school term to work with the students to develop a school kitchen garden. Times are from 1.45pm to 3.00pm.

**Department of Education:** Nick to address the meeting of the Western Region Environmental Committee concerning ECCO and OCAN and how they can support schools on environmental issues.

**Australian Museum Exhibition:** Nick to receive pamphlets and posters promoting the forthcoming exhibition “Climate Change-Our future our choice”. ECCO to decide how to raise awareness and attendance.

**Climate Emergency Day of Action:** National day of action June 13<sup>th</sup>. To discuss how to participate. Suggested a local day of action.

**Stage 2 Moolarben Mega Mine.** Submissions of objection called for. Nick to write a submission on behalf of OCAN.

**Next general meeting: Wednesday April 22, 7.30 at the ELF.**

Nick King Secretary