

MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 19TH 2006.

PRESENT: Neil Jones, Margaret Weaver, Yvonne Cunningham, Nick King, Jeremy Buckingham, Stephen Nugent, Phil Stephenson.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Discussion re. HUB. Council proposal currently lodged with the Department of Planning, which will make a recommendation to the Minister.

ECCO management committee addressed by councilor Jeremy Buckingham who made the following points.

1. The securing of the land for the HUB was not done in an open manner. This issue was always going to be contentious. Not a lot of transparency. In defence of the acquisition of the HUB site: other places would have caused even more controversy. Other places looked at as sites either consisted of multiple holdings or were not for sale.
2. The Ophir Road site does not have 25 years left. Maximum 10 years. More realistically seven years without any major events. Alternative facilities will take five years to set up. The urgency now is partly because no one foresaw that Orange would grow as it has done.
3. Cabonne has 5 landfills. Some are full now. The recent flood put extra pressure on Molong's dump.
4. The options other than establishing a facility such as the HUB are that Cabonne's waste goes by truck to Parkes and Orange's waste goes to Dubbo. Waste disposal for both will be in terms of landfill only, with no recycling.
5. The Nolan and Wright report suggest extending Ophir. The problem with this is that Ophir is on a creek and that there have always been leachate problems in Summer Hill creek.
6. The EIS has been redone and problems in the draft have been addressed. The new EIS is the one which has gone to the minister.
7. The program envisaged for the HUB is that it will take all Cabonne's waste. It will be disposed of as landfill for the next 5-7 years. After alternative technology is installed, the organic waste from Orange will be going there.
8. The recycling centre will stay in Orange at the Ophir site. The organic waste from Orange will go to the HUB, where it will be composted.
9. The technology to be used in the reprocessing of waste has not been selected.
10. Cabonne's projected waste output in the next 5 years will be 15000 tonnes, prior to the installation of waste technology. This will be dumped as landfill. When the reprocessing plant is installed, it is possible that the landfill waste will be dug up and reprocessed.
11. The updated EIS has dealt with issues of hydrology and the problems confronted by the apiary business close to the site.
12. Site issues with groundwater: The HUB site is at the top of a hill. There is very little groundwater flowing through the site. The water which falls on the site will be collected and used in the composting process.

13. One of the reasons for the choice of site is that it is on twenty feet of clay, which will make it difficult for water to leach out of the site. All pits will be lined and water will be pumped into settling ponds.

14. Modelling has been done to determine the effect of dust and noise. This was not seen to be a problem.

15. It is anticipated that 20-40 000 tonnes of garbage per annum will be transported to the HUB. This will not impinge on the HUB's neighbours' capacity to farm.

Members of the ECCO management committee decided that it would be beneficial to meet with members of council staff directly involved with the development of the HUB site to gain information with the view of forming a position on the development of the HUB site

Meeting closed at 9.30.pm

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2006

PRESENT: Margaret Weaver, Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Phil Stephenson, Neil Jones, Chinner Droe , Stephen Nugent, Nick King, Susan Sanders.

APOLOGIES: Yvonne Cunningham

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Balance \$600. Insurance paid. There are outstanding expenses. E.g. incorporation fees.

Current membership: 16 single members, 9 family members, 2 concessional members. Total membership 27. 23 needed to meet target of fifty by the August general meeting.

Discussion re. advertising for membership. Tony to run off flyers to be handed out at the farmer's market and to be given to the Visitor's Centre, at the Grape Vine concerts, chemists, library, Neighbourhood Information Centre, schools, announcements to be made on community radio etc.

It was also proposed that ECCO supporters be encouraged to become members.

Proposed that there be a third list. Information to be sent out to all supporters who don't have email.

Also suggested that interest be sought from members for a logo and a letterhead.

Suggested that a letter be composed which acknowledges that new members have joined.

Website: To be developed. Site structured in time for the next meeting. Possibility of also accessing the orange free website.

HUB: Management committee to meet with the council on the 9<sup>th</sup> August. It was agreed that members of the management committee meet on Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 7.30 pm to formulate relevant questions to be put to council staff in advance.

OTHER BUSINESS: Letter from Jane Paul representing the Orange Field Naturalists re. retention of Waratahs Wetlands. Noted .

Moved that the Ammerdaown Residents Action Group be approached re. joining ECCO.

Copy of letter from the Ag. Research station TAFE campus to Field Naturalists. Land assessment currently underway. To monitor the situation.

Other council websites : Members encouraged to access websites from Mosman, Maitland councils as examples of good websites. ECCO has a role to play in encouraging Orange Council to make their website more environmentally aware.

Another role for ECCO is to encourage council to develop and reinforce effective environmental practices to be embraced by the general public with a view to reducing the environmental footprint of each Orange citizen.

Next general meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Report to members re. meeting with council staff re. HUB. Determination of ECCO's position on the HUB. Management committee need to table recommendations to be endorsed by the meeting.

Members of ECCO to attend Glenn Murcett's address. To approach the INNovative Housing Development for a future presentation at a general meeting of ECCO.

Members of the Management Committee to meet to discuss the meeting with Council on August 16<sup>th</sup>. 7.30 pm.

Tony Smith to offer \$50 prize to anyone coming up with a suitable logo for ECCO.

In return for the use of the ELF facility for meetings, members need to contribute to the permaculture group. Working bees to be held the second Saturday of each month, same day as the Farmers Market.

Meeting closed 10pm.

## RECORD OF MEETING WITH COUNCIL STAFF 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2006

PRESENT: Council staff: Stephen Sykes, Wayne Davis, Jeremy Buckingham, Garry Styles.

APOLOGIES: John Davis, Reg Kidd.

ECCO Management Committee: Susan Sanders, Phil. Stephenson, Stephen Nugent, Colin Foster, Colin Young, Margaret Weaver, Neil Jones, Nick King.

APOLOGIES: Tony Smith.

Council's response to questions submitted by ECCO.

1. How does the HUB proposal satisfy the objectives of Netwaste and the State Government's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy (2003).

Council's response:

- \*Plan to achieve a diversion rate of 42%
- \*Close landfills which are poorly supervised and toxic.
- \*Current and ongoing commitment to Netwaste strategies.
- \*Utilising economically possible strategies
- \*Partnership between councils concerning waste management strategies.
- \* Employing local solutions to waste management problems.
- \*Lifecycle costed
- \*Community involvement in decision making.

2. What are the projected diversion rates for domestic commercial and organic waste?

Council response: Aims for a 42% diversion rate by 2014. Current diversion rates are 35% cleanfill, 25% municipal, 17% commercial organic 16%.

3. How will these diversion rates be achieved.

Council response: All recyclable material for Cabonne and Orange to be processed at the Ophir site. Organic material for Cabonne to be taken to the Hub site and buried as landfill until the end of the life of the orange Tip. By that time a state of the art facility will be installed at the HUB where all organic waste will be processed.

4. What alternative waste technology will be installed at the hUB site, and when will it be installed?

5. If Council is considering a range of waste technologies what are they and what are the comparative diversion rates for each option?

Council response: The waste processing technology will be installed before the life of the Ophir facility has run out. (approx. 7 years). Council intends to wait until the last possible moment before choosing the technology, so as not to miss out on advances in this area. Council does not wish to invest vast sums of ratepayers money in technology which is not up to date. Currently favours a wind drying organic composting system.

6. What will be the components and quality of the output from the proposed reprocessing facility?

7. What is the potential use of this material?

Council response: The above system allows for the removal of contaminants, and the production of a useable form of organic compost. Council also looking to installing technology which is capable of producing biofuels.

8. Does council have plans for better management of the collection of waste material?

Council response: The introduction of a third bin for greenwaste. \$70 000 put aside for community education re waste management and recycling. Different pricing.

9. What feral; pest management controls are to be implemented at the HUB site?

Council response: The actual landfill stage will cover a very small area in the form of a trench. Each day the landfill will be covered by 15 centimetres of dirt. Starlings will be periodically discouraged by shooting.

10. When will the proposed tree planting program commence and will sheep and cattle be excluded from the site.

Council response: Tree planting will commence when council receives permission to proceed with the HUB site. Sheep and cattle will then be excluded.

11. Is there any risk of leachate entering the underground water table or the river systems?

The site is situated on a substantial impermeable clay base. There are no underground aquifers. Any surface runoff will be collected in sealed ponds. All runoff water will be used for reprocessing.

Council's response to choice of site: A new site was required because all tips in Cabonne were nearing their use by date. All tips were poorly managed and environmentally unsound.

Ophir Road has seven years left at the maximum. Nearby sites are unsuitable as the nearby quarry which was suggested is on a creek and has a fractured bottom.

Other sites have been rejected because of inappropriate bases, proximity to watercourses, distance from the main facility and difficulty of purchase as some sites were not for sale and others consisted of multiple holdings.