

MINUTES OF ECCO ORANGE MEETING, FEBRUARY 27TH 2008

PRESENT: Neil Jones, Phil Stevenson, Tony Davidson, David Huck, Brian Phillips, Keith Currey, Marlene Farrell, Colin Foster, Hillary Black, John Black, Jenny Smith, David Williams, John Ferguson, Susan Sanders, Colin Young, Patricia Bannatyne, Robert Alford, Ann Alford, Trevor Gazzard, Margaret Weaver, Janine Harkness, Jeremy Buckingham, Garry Styles, Nick Redmond, Stephen Nugent, Phillip Manning, Rick and Norma Cother, John Gill, Carol Gill, Beverly Duncan, Peter West, Yvette Black. Apologies to those people whose names have been inadvertently omitted.

APOLOGIES: Cilla Kinross, Tony Smith, Fiona Hawke, Fiona Rossiter, Jane Paul, Libby Jones. Apologies accepted.

Minutes of meeting of January 30th 2008: Moved Phil Stevenson, seconded Margaret Weaver that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

Business Arising: Bloomfield Hospital Site : Removal of trees at the proposed site of the new forensic mental health unit at the new hospital site. Tony Smith has met with the project manager at the site, and ECCO is to have input into a flora and fauna management committee. Comment has been made on the landscape plans for the site, which are judged to be Sydney centric and largely unsuitable. Further meetings are arranged with the project manager in six weeks.

Andrew Rawson suggested that ECCO become involved earlier than six weeks, as it is possible that work could commence on the site as early as Friday. In the light of this advice, Neil to contact the project manager and the minister for health tomorrow (February 28th) to discuss this issue.

Baldock Stacey and Niven Building: Information concerning the environmental credentials of the above building has been made available for members to peruse at the meeting. ECCO has forwarded a submission to the Sustainable Development Committee opposing the current design on aesthetic, environmental and heritage grounds. The submission is to be circulated.

Country Energy: Neil met with the regional manager of Country Energy, who expressed his organization's commitment to green energy and his willingness to contribute to the proposed environmental expo and any ECCO initiatives related to green energy. Country Energy's proposed involvement to be discussed at next committee meeting.

Regional Water Forum: To be held next Thursday, March 6th, from 9.30 to 3.30pm at the council Chambers at Orange Civic Centre. There will be many speakers representing all stakeholders in the water debate. Neil will inform members of details when the full program becomes available (February 28th).

Australian Institute of Ag. Science and Technology: There will be a climate change forum conducted by the above organization on Monday March 31st. Details of registration to follow.

Clean up Australia Day: This Sunday, March 2nd. Participants to meet at the carpark at Orange Netball courts at 9pm. Nick King is the site supervisor, and participating ECCO members are required to sign on before commencing. (see email sent on Tuesday February 28th for details, or contact Nick on 63626827 or email nking@126.com for further information.) We will be cleaning up Blackman's Swamp creek from the netball courts/skatepark area to the bridge over the creek just past the pool. This will happen rain hail or shine. Don't forget your raincoat if it is wet.

OCAN news: Meeting With BCANN: Members of the Orange Climate Action Now committee will be meeting members of BCANN, the Bathurst climate action group on Tuesday, March 18th at Bathurst.

Earth Hour: Earth Hour will be celebrated at 8pm on Saturday, March 29th. OCAN to discuss ways to get the Orange community involved in this event at our next meeting.

Basix Survey: Brian Phillips, who is the OCAN committee member researching sustainable housing, wishes to be contacted by anyone who is currently living in a house subject to Basix requirements and is willing to assist him with research into the energy saving effect of Basix. If you are in a position to assist Brian with research in this area, could you please contact him on (ph) 63 65 6056 or (email) kurafals@netconnect.com.au

Next OCAN meeting: Will be held at 7.30 at 148 Matthews Avenue. All welcome. Items for discussion will include compiling an agenda for our forthcoming meeting with BCANN and ideas for Earth Hour.

Treasurer's report: Phil Stevenson reported that the current balance is \$3,831.71, minus \$183.00 BAS. Current financial membership 111. Moved Phil. That the treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded Margaret Weaver. Carried.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS: The meeting was addressed by the Mayor of Orange, Alderman Davis. Counselor Davis addressed the following issues:

- Council's commitment to solving Orange's water problems through such proposed measures as storm water harvesting, accessing water from Gosling Creek and Lake Canobolas, accessing groundwater.
- Climate change and its effect on Orange, which previously has been regarded as less susceptible to drought than other areas of NSW. Orange is committed to developing climate change policy in conjunction with Bathurst and Dubbo.
- The necessity for council to achieve the best outcomes for the entire community, which can lead to conflict with special interest groups, such as ECCO.
- Mounting cost places restrictions on more visionary enterprises.
- Mayor Davis expressed a love for trees and was supportive of efforts to preserve trees which are endangered by the Bloomfield site development. The Issue of tree preservation will be debated at a future ECCO meeting.
- Pressure on council to open up land for development.
- Current progress on the HUB issue. Currently before the Land and Environment court.
- Traffic issues. High density versus satellite residential development.
- The Northern Distributor.
- Baldock, Stacey and Niven building.

Neil Jones thanked the Mayor for his address and expressed ECCO's desire to continue to work with council towards the achievement of sustainable environmental outcomes for Orange. Those present expressed their appreciation for the Mayor's address through applause. The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.

Next ECCO meeting to be held on March 26th.