

MINUTES OF ECCO MEETING MAY 28TH 2008

PRESENT: David Williams, Dave Manning, Jenny Holdaway, Ann Alford, Robert Alford, Peter West, Yvette Black, John Gill, David William, Nick King, Mark Delany, Anna De Boer, Margaret Weaver, Owen Robinson, Sandra Robinson, Trevor Gazzard, Phil Stephenson, Mick Fabar, Belinda Marjoram, Mark Hodges, Neil Jones, Colin Young, Susan Sanders, Euan Greer, Ric Cother

APOLOGIES:

No general business to be conducted at this meeting, the sole purpose of which being presentations on sustainable housing. Prior to the presentations there were announcements of coming events and updates on various issues with which ECCO is involved:

Climate Change Forum: A reminder to members about the Climate Change Forum to be conducted at the **Bathurst RSL Club board room, 114 Rankin St. Bathurst, this Saturday, May 31st**. Members have been circulated previously about this event. Neil Jones, Robert Alford and Nick King will be attending. It is not too late to register for attendance. To do so contact **Bev Smiles, Ph. 042881782, or email npovah@yahoo.com**

World Environment Day: ECCO committee agreed to donate trees to Orange City Council to be planted at a site of its choosing. Orange schools were also contacted concerning a donation of trees. Calare school and Borenore school have responded. Trees will be donated to both schools from ECCO. They will be planted next Thursday, June 5th, which is World Environment Day. Trees will also be donated to be planted by Calare school for Wentworth Reserve.

Neighbourhood Parks: Neil Jones to meet with Nigel Hobden, Orange City Council's presentation officer, to discuss the possibility of a neighbourhood parks scheme, where residents surrounding neighbourhood parks can be encouraged to become involved in the decisions about their park, and its ongoing development and maintenance. Country Energy has indicated that it would sponsor such a scheme.

Daroo Orange Urban Landcare Group: Meeting to be held at the Orange Botanic Gardens, next Tuesday, June 3rd, commencing 7.30pm. All welcome.

O CAN Meeting: Meeting of Orange Climate Action Now to be held at 148 Matthews Avenue on Thursday, June 5th at 148 Matthews Avenue, commencing 7.30. All welcome.

HUB issue: Cabonne Council is no longer supporting the 3A application pursued by Orange City Council. ECCO has reaffirmed its position which is that Council should abide by the ruling of the Land and Environment court and seek an alternative waste management site.

Lake Canobolas: Those who oppose the proposed extraction of water from Lake Canobolas by Orange City Council have formed the Canobolas Catchment Protection Group. ECCO is supporting this group and will have a representative at meetings. The

group met on Wednesday, May 28th. Please find attached a copy of the minutes of that meeting. ECCO supports the further exploration of stormwater harvesting within Orange City, which is being pursued by the Canobolas Catchment Protection Group..

Baldock Stacey and Niven Building: ECCO has put in a submission opposing this development because of its bulk and scale and incompatibility with the surrounding streetscape. Neil attended the recent attempt at conciliation between representatives of the developer and Orange City Council, which were unsuccessful. The case will now go to the Land and Environment Court.

Rotary EXPO: Rotary Environmental Officer, David Williams reports that the Rotary Environmental Expo will commence on October 18th 2008. Rotary will be exploring the possibility of having eco friendly homes available for inspection during this time.

Committee Meeting: To be held Wednesday, June 11th.

Sustainable Housing Presentations- BASIX and Beyond. The meeting was addressed by Mark Hodges, Manager of Building and Environment for Orange City Council, who gave a comprehensive outline of the BASIX building sustainability index, and answered questions from the floor.

The second presenter was Mick Fabar who represents Green Homes Australia, who gave a presentation on state of the art green homes which go beyond the compliance standard required by BASIX.

A final presentation was delivered by Mark Delaney, who is an architect representing Blackwoods, who presented a case study on how a house could be retrofitted at comparatively little cost to maximize green benefits.

Members who were unable to be present who have questions about BASIX or sustainable housing can use these contacts.

BASIX: There is a BASIX website which can be accessed through www.basix.nsw.gov.au. This website provides a checklist through which it is possible to assess your own house. Other enquiries are welcomed by Orange City Council officers Mark Hodges or Mark Keogh, who can be contacted through Orange City Council.

Mick Faber can be contacted through Green Homes Australia, or members can see his display homes which are situated at 7 and 9 Diamond Drive, Orange and are open on Saturdays from 10am to 12 pm.

How can ECCO support the development of sustainable housing in Orange, in the areas of private residential and public/business building? This question was posed at the end of the meeting.

Nick King
Secretary.

