

MINUTES OF ECCO MEETING JANUARY 30TH 2008

PRESENT: Bev Smiles, Jane Passer, Phil Stevenson, Neil Jones, Nick King, Margaret Weaver, Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Debra Brennan, Tony Davidson, John Gill, Andrew Rawson, Col Foster, Susan Sanders, Ann Alford, Robert Alford, Shahreen Alford, Colin Young, David Williams

APOLOGIES: Mary Turner, Stephen Nugent, Carol Gill, Margaret Carroll, David Phillips, Jenny Holdaway, Ruth Morgan

Minutes of General Meeting Held November 28th 2007. Minutes read by Nick. Moved Jenny Smith, seconded Col Foster that the above minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the November meeting. Seconded Col Foster. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING: HUB. Nick to follow up HUB issue by contacting Christine Mackintosh , president of the HUB action committee. ECCO has written a submission opposing the development of a waste management facility on HUB land on the grounds that the site will occupy arable land, which will become increasingly precious if the current climate trend continues. The matter is currently before the Land and Environment Court.

Classification of land- Lot 5 Kearney's Drive, adjacent to the Orange Botanic Gardens:

Moved Tony Smith, seconded John Gill, that ECCO write to Councillor Buckingham , congratulating him on his intervention re. the classification of the above land, resulting in a council decision to retain it for ten years, enabling public input concerning its use. Letters also to Councillors who supported Councillor Buckingham.

North Orange Power line: Subsequent to Neil Jones and Phil Stevenson meeting with Country Energy representatives concerning the development of a power line from Kearney's Drive to Molong Road , ECCO has received a report from Geolyse consultancy concerning the visual impact of this facility. This report is currently available for interested members to read , available from Nick (63 62 6827). ECCO to continue to monitor this situation, as further development involving the installation of power will be conducted in this area. Also to monitor future power installation in the areas to be developed in southern Orange.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by treasurer Phil Stevenson. Current balance \$4536 dollars. Outstanding debits are \$446 for printing for the "11th Hour" launch, plus \$183 BAS. Nett balance: \$3907. Moved David Williams, seconded Debra Brennan that the treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

MEMBERSHIP : A membership update to be provided for the next ECCO meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: Orange City Council Earth Sanctuary Project: Letter received from Gaye Stuart- Nairne re the possibility of Orange City Council terminating the Earth Sanctuary Project situated adjacent to Lake Canobolas. Tony Smith to contact Nigel Hobden, who is overseeing the project, about its future.

Book Launch: An invitation has been extended to ECCO members to the book launch of "Reinventing the Bush-Inspiring Stories of Young Australians" by Margaret Carroll on the 8th of February in Molong, at the Coach House on the Village Green, 6 for 6.30 . Margaret's book will be launched by Aaron Wood, 2007 Environmentalist of the Year, trained as an Al Gore Climate Change Messenger, who is working on river health with school students around Australia.

Suggestions: Correspondence from Peter West concerning making and recording requests to Orange City Council on environmental matters. Has successfully requested Council to remove silt

from storm water drains. Suggested that ECCO members remain vigilant concerning environmental matters, and that ECCO record members request, complaints etc, and the response received as a means of reviewing Orange City Council's environmental performance.

Peter also brought up the subject of tree removal from the site of the new hospital.

Orange Credit Union Marquee: ECCO has received a letter from Orange Credit Union offering the use of a marquee, which they are to be lending to community groups . Letter to be written to the Orange Credit Union, thanking them for their offer.

Renewable Heating and Cooling System at Lithgow Hospital: Letter received from David Phillips, (Ethical Energy) concerning the heating and cooling system used by Lithgow Hospital, which employs the use of underground temperature. David suggests that this method would also be effectively employed in the new Orange hospital. Members wishing to know more about this system can read about it on

<http://www.geoexchange.com.au/Pages/Major%20Installations%202.html>

Christmas Greetings: Christmas card received from the General Manager, Mr. Garry Styles, the Mayor and councilors from Orange City Council.

REPORTS: OCAN: Next meeting of OCAN to be held on Tuesday February 5th, commencing 7.30 at 148 Matthews Avenue. Committee members have been researching significant climate change issues over the holiday break, which will be discussed at this meeting. ECCO members who are interested are welcome to attend.

OCAN members have been requested to research and communicate to members climate change initiatives that individuals can implement. This will be placed on the OCAN agenda. Suggested by Robert that there should be an ongoing packaging on CD of information collated by OCAN members.

Orange Environment Awards: It was agreed that the orange Environment Awards be co-ordinated with the proposed Environmental Expo to be conducted by Orange Rotary with the support of ECCO and Orange City Council. David Williams, Rotary's Environmental Officer has proposed the dates of the Expo to be the 19th and 20th of September, 2008, (to be confirmed), the venue being the Orange Function Centre. Either the launch or the presentation of the ECCO Environment Awards should occur during this time. It was also suggested that such a function should occur at the Environmental Learning Facility on the Friday night.

Orange Principal Local Environment Plan: Neil reports that all submissions for the Local Environment Plan have been collated and commented on. These submissions will shape the future of Orange into the next decade. Proposed that an ECCO committee meeting is devoted to the study of the draft LEP when it becomes available for public comment.

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: The meeting was addressed by Bev Smiles, who is the Secretary of the Central West Environment Council, the major regional environment organization in Western New South Wales. Bev reports that the Central West Environment Council has money to provide workshops in such regional areas as Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo. The content of the workshops will depend on the interests of those who wish to attend. Water management remains an urgent issue, both river management and the management of groundwater. Bev will be speaking at a forum on local water issues in Bathurst, the main concern being the proposed use of effluent water from Bathurst by Cadia mines. Neil and Nick to attend the forum.

Review of Regional Water Supplies: There is currently being conducted a review of regional water supplies by the Department of Water and Energy. ECCO has the opportunity for input.

Local Water issues: Moved Tony Smith, seconded Colin Young that ECCO meets with Council to discuss the communication of regular accurate information concerning the current water use and future planning of water management by council to the public, in particular regular updating of the council website regarding water use and management (including the use and management of groundwater).

Proposed Orange Base Hospital: Reported by Jane Passer that the proposed development of the new hospital on the Bloomfield site is endangering the existence of native fauna and significant trees in the area. Tony Smith to contact the Orange Field Naturalists concerning these concerns.

ECCO to hold discussions with Orange Field Naturalists at a later date concerning a tree preservation order for Orange. Moved Tony Smith, seconded Nick King. Carried.

Baldock Stacey and Niven Site Redevelopment: Moved David Williams, seconded Tony Smith that “ECCO applauds the environmentally sustainable design principles employed in the design of the proposed building, as it would with any other building incorporating environmentally sustainable design features.” Carried.

Moved Tony Smith, seconded David Williams that “ECCO acknowledges that there are heritage issues relating to the existing building which have to be resolved.” Carried.

Disposal of toxic domestic waste: Meeting addressed by Debra Brennan who expressed concern about the lack of facilities for the disposal of toxic chemicals in the Orange District. ECCO to follow up this issue with Orange City Council.

Meeting closed 10.pm. Next meeting to be held February 27th at a venue to be announced.

ECCO committee meeting to be held at Neil’s place, February 13th, commencing 7.30pm