

ECCO GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

PRESENT: Andrew Wannan, David Frith, Duncan Lockwood, David Errey, Cilla Kinross, Fiona Rossiter, J Nicholls, John Dalton, Didi Killen, Sam Romano, Nedra Burns, Nick Redmond, Daryl Guise, David Manning, Simon Wright, Beate Hahn, John Gill, Peter West, Colin Foster, Margaret Hertel, Jeremy Buckingham, Bruce Reynolds, Robert Alford, Gavin Priestley, Jane Paul, Anne Tym, Peter Baxter, Keith Curry, Bob Hoye, Dorothy Hoye, Bob Mc Neil, David Williams, Phil Stevenson, Graham Blatch, Ross Pearce, Janelle Culverson, Filip Czyzewski, Nick King, Neil Jones, Jenny Bennett, Roger Bailey, Tony Penny, Wayne Beattie, Colin Young

APOLOGIES: Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Stephen Nugent, Susan Sanders, Brian Phillips.

The ECCO general meeting was devoted to a public meeting on the issue of water security for Orange. No general business was conducted.

Water restrictions: Neil Jones briefly addressed the issue of water restrictions, referring to the recently developed common water restriction criteria developed for Bathurst Orange and Dubbo. Still some work to do concerning the determination of trigger points for each level. The conditions and criteria for each level have been determined.

Centroc, Orange catchment areas: Neil Jones also provided context for the following talk by presenting and explaining maps which illustrated the Centroc council areas, and the catchments associated with the Centroc councils, and Orange's place in the Central West catchment areas, and also Orange's catchment area.

Introduction: the presentation was introduced by Roger Bailey, the General Manager for Lithgow City Council and the Secretary Treasurer of the Centroc group of councils. Roger made reference to the seventeen Councils which make up Centroc.

Centroc presentation: This presentation was delivered by Jenny Bennett, executive officer for Centroc. Jenny explained the composition and function of Centroc. Of particular interest was her discussion of the commissioned water security study, which aims to inform the best options for industry, mining, irrigation, domestic use and environmental use of water throughout the central West of NSW. The ensuing report will examine the best options for infrastructure development and integrated water management, incorporating the effects of the tabled options on the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the region. This report will be available to the public some time in October.

Lake Rowlands: Lake Rowlands is an important water source, providing water to many communities throughout the Central West. Tony Penny, from the central Tablelands County Council/ Central Tablelands Water spoke about Lake Rowlands and its potential to expand and play a greater role in the water security of the central West.

Orange's Water Supply: Wayne Beattie, Manger of Orange's Water supply Delivered a presentation on various aspects of Orange's water security. He provided an overview of Orange's current water infrastructure, including the existing water storages and current and proposed storm water harvesting infrastructure.

Wayne also covered current water management practices designed to better manage Orange's water resources, and the success of these strategies. Orange will be making public a report on water security in November. The report will include information on current water infrastructure and future plans to further develop water infrastructure. Also included will be an evaluation of current water management practices and suggestions for future management of Orange water.

ECCO members will be informed when both reports are available and details will be given concerning access to these reports.

Next ECCO General Meeting: 7.30 October 28 at the ELF. Note, there will be no committee meeting in October. All outstanding business to be conducted at the general meeting.

Nick King Secretary