

MINUTES OF ECCO GENERAL MEETING JUNE 24 2009

PRESENT: Sue Barry, Tom Harris, Sharon Wilcox, Yvette Black, Peter West, Susan Sanders, David Williams, Nick King, Neil Jones, Phil Stephenson, Jenny Smith, Sandra Robinson, Owen Robinson, Colin Young, Ian Pearce.

APOLOGIES: Marlene Farrell, Stephen Nugent, Brian Phillips

Moved that the minutes of previous ECCO meetings of April and May be adopted.
Moved Peter West, seconded Nick King. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Current balance \$3 049.50 minus paid accounts bringing balance for the month to \$3 049. Expenditure includes book voucher prizes for the World Environment Day Community Arts Competition, printing and stationary.
Moved Phil Stephenson, seconded Nick King that the treasurer's report be accepted.
Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supermarket trolleys: ECCO reply to Harris Farm Market, suggesting that they negotiate with Woolworths concerning a deposit system for trolleys, rather than a perimeter locking system, as suggested by Harris Farm.
Awaiting a reply.

Cyanide enquiry: Reply from Carmel Tebbutt, Minister for Environment and Climate change concerning ECCO's letter about the use and transport of cyanide in the central West. This reply was merely an acknowledgement of receipt, rather than a satisfactory response. ECCO to follow up.

Natural burials: No reply from Orange City Council personnel in response to ECCO's letter on this subject. ECCO to follow up on this.

Moved Yvette Black, seconded Jenny Smith that the correspondence be accepted.
Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Cadia East project: The Cadia East project is now available on the Department of Planning website. ECCO members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this document, which can be made available by googling **NSW Dept of Planning**, then clicking onto **On Exhibition**.

ECCO will be hosting the only public meeting for the discussion of the environmental issues surrounding the development of the Cadia East mine. Cadia East personnel will be presenting a report. Those present will be invited to question the presenters afterwards. This meeting will be advertised to the public in the media. Representatives of political, business and other interest groups have been invited to attend. Key environmental issues for discussion will include:

- The creation of a large subsidence zone above the Cadia East underground mine, resulting in the loss of remnant native woodland and fauna habitat.
- The gradual formation of a large water body in the subsidence zone, and adjoining Cadia Hill open pit void over a period of several hundred years after mine closure.

- Creation of a local groundwater sink around Cadia East subsidence zone, including potential impacts on some privately owned bores and springs.
- Potential loss of the groundwater contribution to local creeks.
- Rehabilitation of mine landforms and their sustainable integration with the landscape.
- The carbon cost incurred in the mining process.
- Destruction of local habitat for flora and fauna.

ECCO will be compiling a submission subsequent to the meeting. Volunteers are sought for closer examination of sections of the report, which is very lengthy and impossible for one or two individuals to wade through. Anyone interested, contact ECCO at the public meeting on July 1, contact Nick on 63 62 6827, or use contact ECCO on our gmail address ecco.orange@gmail.com

Neil to organise an advertisement for the meeting in the CWD the previous Saturday.

Environmental Impact Statement for the North Orange Bypass: No significant environmental issues. There are safety concerns . Nick to look at bypass information and write a submission concerning the provision of planting for a wildlife corridor along the bypass, and also advocate for a bicycle path, if one has not been included in the statement.

Orange Showground Options Paper: ECCO's submission on this issue has been circulated to members, other user groups and to Orange City Council. Council will now proceed with a formal submission process, which includes considering other options not included in the initial report. The Insite consultant will examine the merits of these options.

Peter West and Yvette Black represented ECCO at a user group discussion, which was attended by a large number of user group's representatives. Issues discussed were appropriate approaches to Council and legal issues surrounding ownership and purchase of the land in question, which still not have been resolved.

There will be a meeting at the ELF at 6pm today Thursday involving members of Orange City Council concerning the future of the showground. ECCO members are asked to provide input and ideas about the future use of orange Showground, and it's future funding.

Proposed Water Restrictions: Neil Jones tabled a document compiled through the joint efforts of Dubbo, Orange and Bathurst City councils concerning a unified approach to water restrictions. The report is on public display on the Orange City Council website under meetings. Minutes, agenda of Thursday, June 18, 2009 of the Infrastructure Policy Committee. ECCO will be responding to this report.

Storm water harvesting: There has been a report recently released concerning the feasibility of the construction of wetlands associated with storm water harvesting and management. Neil Jones has been in contact with the wetland expert associated with this report and has toured the proposed wetland sites. Constructed wetlands are proposed for the Ploughman's Valley system, which is to become a water harvesting site. ECCO to comment on the feasibility study. Nick King and David Williams will

examine the upper reaches of Ploughman's creek to look at the direction of water flow.

The HUB: Council has submitted its 3A application to the appropriate State Government minister. If the application is successful, public submissions will then be invited. ECCO's response will be the focus of a future meeting.

Enviro Expo 2009 : Dates 18th, 19th, 20th September, 2009. David Williams reports that there will be a possible 85 exhibitors. ECCO's contribution will be its quarterly environmental awards presentation, provision of a stall in conjunction with other environmental groups (e.g. Field Naturalists) . ECCO will also organise eco tours to houses and gardens which have environmental significance throughout the district. Members are asked to contribute to suggestions for guest speakers, or people who may wish to run an environmental workshop.

ECCO to organise the above at the next committee meeting.

Earth First: Peter West, Earth First co-ordinator reports that the column is going well, with positive feedback from the central Western Daily. Members who wish to contribute, or have suggestions concerning contributions to contact him through the ECCO gmail.

Home energy Champions: The Home Energy Champions project will no longer be presented as a competition, but as a service to the public which will be accessible on ECCO's forthcoming website.

The ECCO website: Construction of an ECCO website is currently underway, and should be up and running by August.

Future Dates: July 1st. Public meeting concerning the **Cadia East Project Environmental Assessment** . This meeting is at the **Orange Environmental Learning Facility (ELF) and will commence at 7pm. All welcome.**

July 22nd . ECCO general meeting at the ELF commencing 7pm.

August 2nd: National Tree Day. ECCO to provide \$100 worth of trees to any Orange school which applies.

Nick King Secretary.