

MINUTES OF ECCO GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 24 2010

Present: Neil Jones, Nick King, Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Simon Wright, Yvette Black, Stephen Nugent, Beate Hahn, Peter West, Brian Phillips, Bob Hill, Judy Hill, Chris Wade, John Gill, Jeremy Buckingham

Apologies: Fiona Rossiter, Colin Foster, Susan Sanders, Cilla Kinross, Carol Gill, Haidee Nelson

Moved John Gill seconded Brian Phillips that the apologies be accepted. Carried.

Minutes of general meeting, Jan 27: Moved Stephen Nugent, seconded Peter West that the minutes of the general meeting of January 27 be accepted. Carried.

Business arising: To be dealt with under listed items of general business.

Treasurer's report: Balance at 24/2/2010: \$2056.28

Income since 27/1/2010: \$ 367.00

Expenditure: 16.50

Moved Nick King, seconded Tony Smith that the treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

Correspondence: Letter from Parliament house Standing Committee on Petitions acknowledging petition from ECCO re: climate change. Tabled. No further action.

Letter from Bathurst Community Climate Action Network Inc. to the managing director of Newcrest Mining, encouraging the company to explore renewable energy sources for the Cadia East extension. Moved Nick King, seconded Neil Jones that ECCO write a letter supporting BCCAN's request to Newcrest mining. Copies to the ministers for planning and environment. Nick tabled a draft letter which was accepted. Suggested addendum by Tony Smith that the letter include a request for details information from the company concerning monitoring and reporting on emissions.

Suggested that ECCO and BCCAN prepare a joint press release on the issue.

Letter from BCCAN concerning the gross feed in tariff for solar energy. Tabled. Copy available on request.

Moved Peter West, seconded Stephen Nugent that the correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Cadia approval: The Cadia East mine extension approved by Peter Garrett, the Federal Minister for the Environment. Peter West to follow up concerning the conditions of approval, the rationale for the approval, the approval process and the environmental issues dealt with at federal level.

Clean Up Australia Day: Peter West organizing and co-ordinating. ECCO has five registered sites. ECCO members have volunteered to supervise each of the sites. Flyers will be distributed in neighbourhoods adjoining the sites. There will be a press release, and ECCO members have volunteered to be interviewed on local and community radio. Publicity will also occur through Orange Photo News and the Central Western Daily. Schools in the registered areas to be contacted.

The Tidy Towns committee will be hosting a barbecue for volunteers, who are also invited for drinks at the Union Bank at 3.30pm after the cleanup.

Earth Hour: ECCO has obtained permission to hold the Earth Hour Picnic under the stars on March 27 at Rotary Park on mount Lindsay. There will be an Earth Hour planning meeting to be held at 126 Coronation Drive at 7.30 to plan the event. Anyone interested in assisting is welcome.

Orange Photo News: Peter continues to liaise with Orange Photo News concerning ECCO's monthly contribution to this publication. ECCO's first article has appeared and has been well received. Volunteers are required to submit articles. Articles are also welcome from other groups. The Orange Field Naturalists have indicated that they will be contributing articles in the future.

Orange Community Radio: ECCO has arranged to do a half hour radio segment on local community radio, where volunteers are interviewed by a local community radio personality. Neil Jones has done two sessions. Radio sessions are on Tuesdays at 4pm once a fortnight.

Green drinks-carbon conversations: Some discussion concerning the format for this concept. Brian Phillips stressed that though an informal atmosphere is desirable, there still needs to be some structure, and that constructive outcomes should be achieved through the process of an informal group meeting in a social situation and sharing household energy saving ideas. The next opportunity for an informal get together of this nature will be on Sunday, March 7, after Cleanup Australia Day.

Earth First: Schedule for Earth First has been circulated. Members are encouraged to volunteer to do articles. Stephen Nugent suggested that other environmental groups be approached to contribute articles about their environmental role in the community. Haidee Nelson has volunteered to take over the co-ordination of the Earth First.

ECCO Local Environment Awards: It was agreed that ECCO adopt a different approach to its environment awards, agreeing to award good environmental practice as and when it is appropriate, rather than adhering to a fixed calendar schedule. Moved Stephen Nugent, seconded Nick King, that Environmental awards go to the Montgomeries for their native garden and Christine McIntosh for her work and dedication on the HUB issue. Carried.

Orange Local Environment Plan: Neil to meet with Council staff concerning ECCO's submission about the Local Environment Plan, the release of which is immanent.

Bloomfield Bushland Selloff: On the list for Health Infrastructure asset realization. It is time to reaffirm the status of this area. ECCO to look at the possibility of encouraging other groups to make submissions on this issue. ECCO to make a submission. Need to create community awareness about the importance of this area.

Proposed Groundwater Forum: Neil Jones has contacted the State Manager of Groundwater and a hydrologist from Dubbo to conduct a groundwater forum. A suggested time is April 28. Neil to negotiate on this issue.

ECCO brochure: Stephen Nugent tabled the new ECCO brochure which he has designed. It was agreed that 1000 copies of the brochure be printed. Many thanks to Stephen for the excellent job he has done in designing and developing the brochure.

Glenroi Kitchen Garden: There has been a change in the organization of this project. Classes will be involved three afternoons per week. The school would like volunteers for each afternoon. Times are 1.45-3.00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first volunteer day will be on Monday, March 1, commencing 1.45.

Burrangang Aboriginal Dance Group: Moved Tony Smith, seconded Yvette Black that \$100 be donated by ECCO for funding to assist with performance costs. This group has indicated it will be available to perform at future ECCO functions.

Orange Community Garden: Orange community Garden will celebrate its 5th birthday this coming Saturday, February 27 at the ELF Community Garden , commencing 5.30pm. All welcome.

Next ECCO general meeting: Wednesday March 24.

Nick King Secretary.