



ECCO President's Report

23 October 2024 to 27 August 2025 (10 Months)

Planning for 2025

- ▶ Feature Item on Agenda - November 2024 Meeting (27.11.2024)
- ▶ Program and Goals for Year - January 2025 (22.1.2025)

What could / should we be doing more of or doing better?

What could we do less of or not at all?

What new directions / projects might we want to pursue?

What should we prioritise?



ECCO Current (or Past) Projects & Activities

- ▶ Monthly Meetings
- ▶ Guest Speakers - bi-monthly
- ▶ Submissions to Council and other Government agencies
- ▶ Presentations in community forum at Council meetings
- ▶ Participation in Council Community Committees
- ▶ Activism / protests
- ▶ Film screenings - awareness and fundraising
- ▶ Earth First column in CWD
- ▶ Website and Facebook
- ▶ Orange Farmers Markets - bi-monthly stalls
- ▶ Environmental Awards - ad hoc
- ▶ Waste to Art Sponsorship - annual
- ▶ Participation in environmentally-focused community events, e.g. Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day, Plastic Free July, Biodiversity Month, Sustainability Living Week and Expo, Picnic for Nature, tree planting days
- ▶ Support for community projects: Ploughmans Wetlands Care Group, ELF Community Garden Group, Electrify 2800, school kitchen gardens
- ▶ Support and membership of other environmental groups: Canobolas Conservation Alliance, Orange Field Naturalists & Conservation Society, CWEC, NCC
- ▶ Meet the Candidates Forum (relevant for 2025)
- ▶ Edible Garden Trail

Possible New Directions & Ideas for 2025

- ✓ Public events with guest speakers in a range of formats, e.g. individual speaker, debate, panel discussion, interview, on Zoom, etc - on 4th Wednesday every second month or on a different night possibly as a Green Drinks event
- ✓ Green Drinks - Orange chapter of Greens Drinks International
- ✓ Pub Quiz
- ✓ Movie screenings from online film festival with Orange Library or West Room as venue - Pete to send details
- ✓ Movie screening and fundraiser at Odeon 5
- ✓ Events and competitions in schools / for school-aged young people either through schools or 'after school' programs (e.g. library after school program); possible events include school presentation incursion, colouring-in competition, phone film festival with prizes provided by a sponsor (primary school, secondary school and open categories, ECCO to set theme(s), all films to made on phones)
- ✓ Promote Council's good planting guide and other existing resources on social media, at Farmers Markets, etc
- ✓ Get more active and adventurous with social media to increase ECCO's profile and reach a much wider cross-section of the community - post on community noticeboard pages, target communications to diverse audiences
- ✓ Make 'business' meetings more fun and run them more efficiently and effectively - start with socialising time between 7 and 7.30, organise for someone to bring a joke poem or song to share at the start of each meeting, set start and finish times and stick to them, incorporate feature discussion and program reports (reports from working groups) into agenda
- ✓ More involvement in Sustainability Living Week and Expo including proposed planning session
- ✓ Calendar of key dates and events available on website
- ✓ Clean Up Australia Everyday - register sites
- ✓ More joint projects with other groups, e.g. OFNCS, BCCAN
- ✓ Environmental festival like Big Green Gathering in UK

Cleaning and Greening our Environment: CUAD, Tree Planting Days, Community Garden

- ▶ Clean Up Australia Day - 2.3.25
- ▶ Brian Phillip Bequest Tree Planting
 - Stage 1 - 24.5.25
 - Stage 2 - 6.9.25 (upcoming)
- ▶ National Tree Day - 27.7.25
- ▶ Habitat Connect Tree Planting
 - Ploughmans Wetlands - 16.8.25
- ▶ Ploughmans Wetlands Care Group
 - Regular working bees
 - Thanks Neil for ongoing coordination
- ▶ ELF Community Garden Group
 - Community gardening sessions





Advocating, Influencing, Participating:

Orange City Council

Community Committees

- Environmental Sustainability
- Parks, Trees and Waterways
- Companion Animals
- Heritage
- Bicycle

Community Consultations

- Various

Submissions

- ▶ Feb - Proposed Solar Farm and Battery Array at **25 Lone Pine Avenue**
- ▶ Feb - Proposed Solar Farm and Battery Array **140 Cadia Rd**
- ▶ May - **Orange Sporting Precinct - Stage 2**
- ▶ Jun - **Draft Community Strategic Plan**
- ▶ Jun - Development of OCC's **Active Transport Strategy**
- ▶ Jun - Development of OCC's **Open Space and Recreational Strategy**
- ▶ Aug - **Draft Redmond Place Precinct DCP**

Advocating, Influencing, Participating: NSW Government Agencies

Submissions

- ▶ Feb - Proposed Prescribed Wetlands in Draft Unregulated Water Sharing Plans 2025
- ▶ Mar - Opposing Wilpinjong Coal Mine Pit 8 Extension
- ▶ Mar - Opposing Ulan Mine Extension
- ▶ Apr - Net Zero Commission Report on the Impacts of Coal Mining in Central West
- ▶ Jul - Native Forest Management
- ▶ Jul - Inquiry into Access Restrictions to Public Lands and Waterways - Opposing Legislation to Enable 'Conservation Hunting'

Voices for the Valley Movie Screening

- ▶ 20.8.25
- ▶ Screening of NCC movie and panel discussion
- ▶ Proposed expansion of Moolarben Coal Mine
- ▶ Letters written to Minister Scully and sent next day
- ▶ Further action to come
- ▶ Thank you Tony and Penny

ECCO orange invites you to a **free, short film** - a screening of Nature Conservation Council's

Updated

Voices for the Valley

STOP the Moolarben OC3 Coal Mine Expansion
When: 7:30 pm Wednesday 20th August 2025
Venue: Meeting Place (Nguluway Ngurang).
The hub / seniors centre. Orange.
(southwest corner of Woolworths car park).
All Welcome.



Join us: short film and panel lead discussion.



Kate Hook has been a climate advocate for 34 years, working in renewable energy to ensure communities benefit from the clean energy transition.



Monique Worsley, a former UNICEF Young Ambassador from rural NSW, is passionate about advocacy, bioethics and both valuing and protecting our natural capital.



Dr Simon Wright is a senior research fellow in energy transitions at CSU with a focus on transitions from coal and what Australia can learn from overseas experiences.

Watchdogging 😊 (Monitoring Issues)

Biodiversity	Carriage
Unlocking the Bloomfield Precinct	Neil
Parklands Project	Cyril

Planning	Carriage
Urban Forest Strategy / New DCP	Neil
Redmond Place Housing Project – on Exhibition for Comment until End of the Month	Rob
166 & 168 Sieben Drive – Potential Sale	Stephen

Renewable Energy / Climate Action	Carriage
Iberdrola Windfarm	Nick
Solar Farm Development Proposals	Stephen
Sustainable Living Week	Nick

Water	Carriage
Water Sharing Plans for Macquarie and Lachlan	Denis
Blackmans Swamp Stormwater Harvesting Stage 2 Proposal	Denis

Acknowledging Good Work

Dec - ECCO Award presented to Roger Smith

Jan - Neil Jones wins Orange Environmental Citizen of the Year

Jun - Letter of thanks to Nigel Hobden for support with Brian Phillips bequest tree planting

Jun - Waste to Art Competition Sponsorship

Jul - Letter of thanks to David Waddell Retiring Orange City Council CEO



Raising Awareness, Informing

ECCO Talks Program

- Will Love, Landcare Coordinator, 26.2.25
- Scott Maunder, Council Director, 30.4.25
- Electrify Your Home event, 25.6.25
- Sally Neaves, Blayney ECO Hub, 27.8.25

Meet the Candidates Forum

- 16.4.25

Orange Farmers Markets

- Bi-monthly ECCO stall

Earth First

- Weekly column (thanks again to Nick)

Website

Facebook Page

Electrify 2800



Electrify 2800

Tim Forcey Author Talk

- 21.11.24
- Official launch

Orange Show

- 17.5.25 & 18.5.25

Electrify Your Home event

- 25.6.25
- Co-hosted with OCC & Rewiring Australia

Electrification Journey Roundtable

- 25.8.25

Sustainable Living Expo (upcoming)

- 21.9.25

Orange Famers Markets

Website, Facebook, Instagram

Newsletter

Promotional Materials

Grant Applications

Thanks to Sandra, Ash, Pete and Nick



Author Talk
Brought to you by
Electrify
2800



November 21st | 6pm | FREE
West Room, Orange Gallery

Meet energy researcher Tim Forcey, author of *My Efficient Electric Home Handbook* and founder of the Facebook sensation *My Efficient Electric Home*.

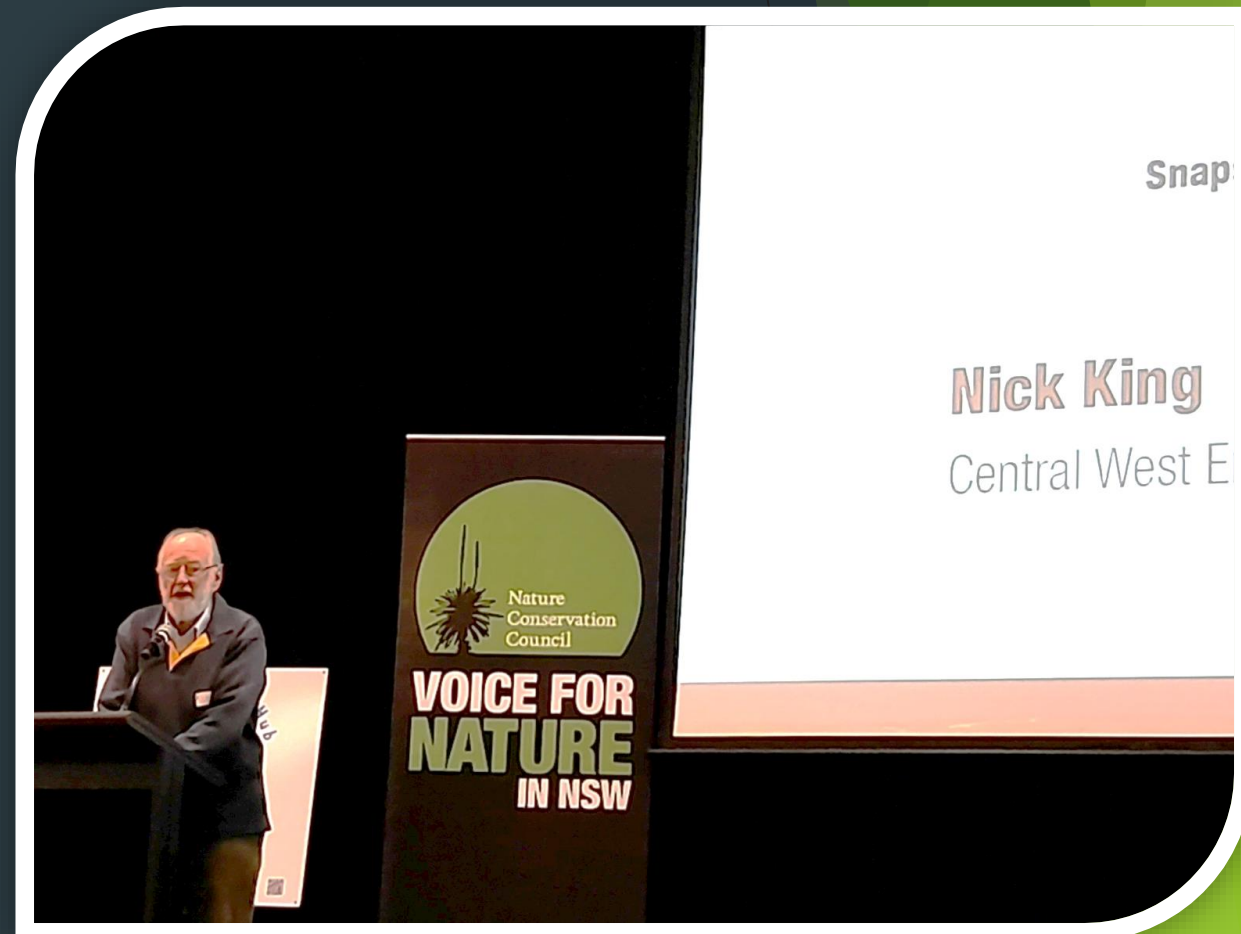
Reserve your place now



Electrify 2800

Collaborating and Connecting

- ▶ Orange Field Naturalists
 - Joint Christmas Party 15.12.24
 - Membership overlap
- ▶ Energy Democracy Orange Renewable Energy Park
 - Representation on Naming Committee
 - Jan-Feb 25
- ▶ Rural Australians for Refugees & Orange Together - Meet the Candidates
- ▶ Nature Conservation Council
 - Regional Conference in Blayney
 - 14.6.25 & 15.6.25
 - Screening of Voices for the Valley on 20.8.25
- ▶ Rotary - Sustainable Living Expo 21.9.25



A busy and productive 10 months!

A special thanks to our office bearers Rob, Nick and Sandra. Thanks also to our other Committee Members, to our project/issues coordinators and to all members who have been active in ECCO activities this year, whether getting along to meetings, planting trees or attending events. Sadly, we saw the passing of two special members of the ECCO community in May - David Williams and Jenny Smith were life members and active supporters of ECCO for many years. We look forward to all that 2025-2026 will bring, including celebrating a special milestone - our 20th anniversary!

