



ECCO President's Report

28 August 2025 to 26 August 2026

Highlights

- 20th Anniversary Celebration
- 18.7.26 at the Lord Anson
- Brian Phillips Bequest Stage 2 Planting
- and maintenance sessions
- Electrify 2800 community presence
- SL Expo, Farmers Markets, Orange Show, Bunnings
- 3 Bunnings BBQ fundraisers
- more than \$5,000 raised
- 19 Submissions – OCC & Gov't Agencies
- one of our busiest years



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

- Clean Up Australia Day – 1.3.26
- Brian Phillips Bequest Tree Planting
 - Stage 2 on 6.9.25
 - Mulch spreading and maintenance
- National Tree Day – 26.7.26
- Ploughmans Wetlands Care Group
 - Regular working bees
 - Thanks Neil for ongoing coordination
- ELF Community Garden Group
 - Community gardening sessions
 - Edible Garden Trail – 14.3.26 & 15.3.26







Advocating and Influencing:

Orange City Council

Community Committees

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

Meetings & Consultations

- Presentations at Council Meetings
- Participation in Community Consultations

Support & Sponsorship

- NSW Inclusive Energy Outreach Grant Application (Oct 25) – Letter of Support
- Waste to Art Competition - Sponsorship

Submissions

- Sep 25 - DA 298/2025 1-3 **Redmond Place** Orange
- Sep 25 - DA 269/2025 (1) - Lot **128 Westerly Drive** Orange
- Jan 26 - DA 464/2025 (1)-32 Perc Griffith Way. Orange (**Greyhound Racing Facility**)
- Mar 26 – Strategic Policy ST26: **Managing Council's Finances**
- May 26 – DA 117/2026 (1)-PAN-62678 **37 Molong Road**
- May 26 - **Orange City Council Budget** and Operational Plan 2026-2027
- Jun 26 – DA 172/2026 (1)-**91 Northern Distributor Rd**
- Jun 26 – **Community Climate Action Plan** (Your Say)
- July 26 – **Open Space and Recreation Strategy**
- July 26 – **Active Transport Strategy**
- Jul 26 – **Cook Park Aviary**

Case Study: 37 Molong Road

Timeline

- 6 April - DA lodged proposing to remove 27 mature native trees
- 6 May - ECCO submission calling for reconsideration of tree removal:

“We ... query the development within the context of **Orange’s Urban Forest Strategy**, as well as the current development of a **Community Climate Action Plan**. We contend that any consent should be conditional on changes being made to better meet the objectives and requirements of the Urban Forest Strategy, and that the DA should be modified to ensure that relevant trees are retained ...”
- May-June – Council staff consultation with applicant re submissions (5 in total) and assessments:

“... following Council's assessment, the submission of additional arboricultural and biodiversity information, and consideration of public submissions, the proposal was amended to significantly reduce vegetation impacts. The amended proposal now seeks the removal of 10 trees while retaining the majority of perimeter vegetation ...”
(Manager’s Comments in Council papers of 4.8.26)
- 4 August - DA approved, 17 of the 27 trees to be retained



Figure 4 –View looking south to trees in rear garden

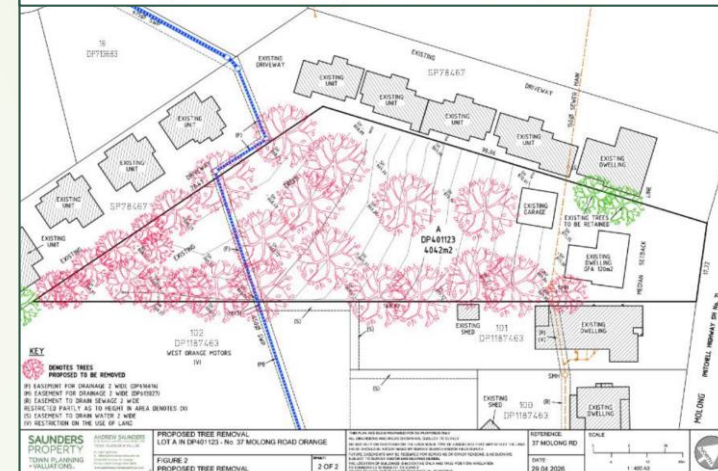


Figure 2 - Site plan



Figure 3 – Amended site plan



Advocating and Influencing: NSW and Australian Government Agencies

Submissions / Letters

- Oct 25 - **NSW Planning System** Reforms Bill 2025 (to NSW MLCs)
- Oct 25 - **Wilpinjong** Coal Mine Mod 3-Pit 8 Extension
- Nov 25 - **Belubula Water Security** Project
- Jan 26 - **Ulan Coal Mine** Amended Modification 6
- Feb 26 - **Moolarben OC 3 Coal Mining** Extension Project
- Feb 26 - Peabody Energy **New Exploratory Licence** Application - Wollar Valley
- Mar 26 - **Cadia Mod.16**
- Apr 26 - Review of **Murray Darling Basin Plan** 2012

Presentations

- Sep 25 - Western Region Planning Panel Public Hearing re DA for **Proposed Solar Farm** at 140 Cadia Road

Raising Awareness, Informing

ECCO Talks Program

- Emily Brebner, Iberdrola, 26.11.25
- Ashley Bland, Energy Expert, 25.2.26
- Eli Todman, OCC Sustainability Officer, 22.4.26
- Peter Thomas, MDBA Regional Engagement Office, 26.7.26
- Mysie Harper, Landcare Coordinator, 26.8.26

ECCO Outreach

- Bi-monthly ECCO stall at Orange Farmers Markets
- Multicultural Learn to Swim Group 18.8.26

Press and Broadcast Media

- Earth First weekly column in CWD (thanks Nick)
- Regular interviews on FM107.5 (thanks Rob)

Online and Social Media

- Website
- Facebook Page

Electrify 2800



Electrify 2800

Sustainable Living Expo
- 21.9.25

Orange Show
- 9.5.26 & 10.5.26

Orange Farmers Markets

Bunnings BBQs

Website, Facebook

Newsletter

Promotional Materials

Grant Applications

Thanks to Sandra, Ash,
Pete, Rob, Nick and all who
have supported Electrify 2800



Ploughmans Wetlands Care Group

Regular maintenance working bees

Planning meetings

Tree planting days

Monitoring what's happening first-hand

Liaising with Council staff



Ploughmans Wetland east - time lapse after fire on 24/11/2025. Photos Rosemary Stapleton.

Dates of photos and days since fire. 24/11/25 (with fireman), 2/12/25 (8 days), 10/12/25 (16 days),
15/12/25 (16 days), 25/12/25 (31 days), 11/1/26 (48 days).



Collaborating and Connecting

- Orange Field Naturalists
 - Joint Christmas Party 14.12.25
 - Membership overlap
- Rotary Club of Orange
 - Sustainable Living Expo 21.9.25
- Energy Democracy Central West NSW Co-op
 - Yiray Clean Energy Park
 - Inauguration 8.9.26 10:30am to 12noon
- Central Tablelands Landcare
- Blayney Eco Hub
 - Hosted ECCO visit in January (find date)
- Greening Bathurst
 - Promotion of events on ECCO Facebook
- Central West Environment Council
- Nature Conservation Council
 - Powering the Regions Conference
 - Online on 13.6.26

ARE YOU CONFUSED ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT SOLAR REBATES??

Join Ash Bland for clear, practical insights into all your solar, battery, EV, and electrification questions.

HOUSEHOLD SOLAR, BATTERIES AND ELECTRIFICATION

What you'll learn: how the grid and energy market work and how this affects your bill; whether to add batteries to an existing solar system or put in a new solar battery system; what Home Energy Management Systems (HEMS) do; EV charging basics, Energy Retailer offers.

Why come: Learn how to make informed choices about government solar rebates that lower your energy bills and strengthen the local grid.

FREE INFORMATION FOR BATHURST HOME OWNERS

Tuesday 25th November
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
The Greens on William
29 William St, Bathurst

BOOK NOW

Greening Bathurst | The Neighbourhood Centre | BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL



Another busy and productive year!

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 three long-term members of the ECCO community during the year – Colina Huxtable, Susan Saunders and Cyril Smith. We acknowledge their passing and remember their many contributions to ECCO and to the city of Orange.

We look forward to all that 2026-2027 will bring.