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Dorrigo Energy Centre a boon for plateau

BY ALICE BURNET

MORE than 70 people attended a Dorriggo town meeting on Wednesday, October 30 to ask questions about the proposed Dorriggo Energy Centre.

The Dorriggo Energy Centre is a concept put forward by the owners of local business and renewable energy developer, Felena Energy.

The aim of the Dorriggo Energy Centre is to be an Australian first.

It will provide information and showcase full-scale models of a diverse range of energy technologies.

The centre will have a rural focus but it will also provide people with an understanding of household renewable energy technologies and their direct impact on day-to-day life.

Felena Energy owner Peter Lynch also espoused the virtues of having a new and large company based on the Dorriggo Plateau.

A specific emphasis was made to the creation of local jobs, rural innovation and regional business opportunities.

It is anticipated that should the Dorriggo Energy Centre be established, 30 to 40 full time jobs would be created for the local community.

The layout for the Dorriggo Energy Centre were displayed at the meeting.

Felena is exploring financing options to purchase this site based on a current option to purchase.

The business model of the centre was yet to be decided, with a variety of models suggested.

However, it is understood that this venture is an initiative by Felena in collaboration with the Dorriggo community.

The attendees also discussed the current impediments to this proposed development.

Current state government regulatory barriers and an unsupportive bureaucratic framework were identified as key obstacles in moving the project forward.

The meeting concluded with a call to lobby the Member for Oxley and NSW Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner.

More information can be found at www.dorrigoenergycentre.org

Members of the community can contribute and campaign for the Dorriggo Energy Centre by downloading a proposed letter form the above mentioned website.