

## Meeting Minutes Stockton Community Group Meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Present: **members:** Jenny Allen, Boyd Allen, Chris Baldwin, Carolyn Baldwin, Christine Boyd, Ron Boyd, Scott Brooks, Laura Cheney, Rod Cheney, Julie Cook, Lloyd Davies, Willow Forsyth, Ron Holbrow, Vicki McDonald, Fred McIntire, Les Moran, Shelia Moran, Alan Newberry, Sheldon Newey Alison Rigby, Mark Rigby, Cathy Shepherd, Ian Taggart, Melanie Taggart, Susan Watson, John Watson, Dave Williams, Philip Wilson, Zosia Wilson

Apologies: Barbara Witcher, Peter Twining, Sue McIntire

TIME COMMENCED: 7:15pm TIME COMPLETED: 9:15pm CHAIR: Jenny Allen

CHAIR: Jenny Allen (JA)

MINUTES: Alison Rigby

Item 1: JA Acknowledgement of country and welcome.

Item 2: Present and Apologies. (meet and greet opportunity for all)

JA COVID RULES as per Stockton Surf Life Saving Club

Thanks to members of Stockton Surf Life Saving Club to allow SCG to meet in their premises and anticipate an ongoing partnership.

**Item 3: Declaration of Conflicts** of Interest and Confidential items. Nil

**Item3.1 Minutes.** Accepted by JA 2<sup>nd</sup> S Moran

**Item 4: Presentation** - Newcastle Police – postponed /held over date tbc

**Item 5: Outstanding Actions**

JA noted:

### Outstanding Actions/Items

1. Draft communication strategy: This will need to be revised and sent to all SCG for comment by 11/2/21. JA updated the group on the strategy for dealing with Newcastle City Council (NCC). Which will be presented to the Lord Mayor & General Manager. Group agreed document is ready to be sent to Council, in anticipation of meeting with Lord Mayor. Completed
2. Letter needs to be sent to Australian Super to encourage them to exert their influence to encourage Orica to be a better community member. In train
3. HW site: possible fencing options discussed. Need to follow up with options for comment from SCG. RB provided feedback on strategy presented at the HW meeting/workshop on coastal management. Proposal received positively by HW and will be taken further. Question/discussion re desal pipeline location & discharge. Wetlands regeneration site fencing
4. Incorporation of SCG – IT updated the group on process of incorporation process. No objections from SCG members so can proceed with incorporation. Discussion on benefits of

incorporation - allows SCG to represent the community. Remain non- profit & accountability for decision making and financial processes. Allows SCG to apply for funding & grants as appropriate. Succinctly provides guidelines of operation & accountability

5. Treasure Island proposal:
  - 5.1 Propose set up a financial account 'Treasure Island'. A fund to develop opportunities for projects on bettering Stockton. Anyone can provide an idea (up to \$500) & proposals reviewed for funds. Are there other opportunities to obtain funding. Discussion on how people can contribute. Donations can be contributed via bsb (details available via email or from the SCG web site )
  - 5.2 Description, criterion, and purpose to be written for fund. **Action** JA in conjunction with SM & LM. Decision making body required suggested -SCG exec & the moans )
6. Newcastle Stronger Communities Grants Expressions of Interest now open. Please forward Needed to be incorporated to access grants - next round
7. Sea Dumping act SCLG JA /RB/BW attended meeting with DPI . RB drafted a response to DPI concerned about the EIS conditions for 2004 South Arm Dredging approval
8. PCWS - Survey reminded people to complete the survey. Completed
9. Character Particle study (details from JA) ACTION JA to send CSIRO study details to PCWS& information gathering from SCLG re examples of dust. JA encouraged members to be proactive with reporting issues/information to PCWS. Completed
10. Review Action List

## 6: Standing Agenda Items

*Standing Agenda Items: Reports tabled and included Appendix 1 for noting.*

### 6.1 1 Stockton Community Liaison Group meeting (report submitted see appendix 1)

Discussion on mapping out the decision-making responsibilities of State, Council & corporations. (responsible for curation of Harbour, Stockton foreshores etc.) Create a decision-making tree. That will allow members to provide consistent response / feedback.

**ACTION:** map out the decision - making bodies to create a decision- making tree.

IT /RB /JA

Quantifying storm surge modelling to identify risk. Back to SLG

### 6.2 Taskforce Report – (Report in appendix 1)

Existing permissions & permits to place good sand on Stockton beach. However no permits & approvals required by NCC to be shovel ready.

Action : NCC need to provide a timeline for shovel ready process.

Discussion take off line decision makers/ stakeholders process.

### 6.3 Port Authority meeting -DW Nil

### 6.3.1 Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund DW – NIL

#### **Working Party reports**

Working Party reports; ( see reports at end of minutes)

6.5 **Stockton Beach inclusive of Newcastle CMP** -IT REPORT submitted

ICM report on Stockton Beach has been received, stating Port Infrastructure is mainly responsible. The Public release of this report needs to support a planned protest.

6.6 **Crown Lands group** – group has merged with Community & Environment Report Submitted (see MT report)

6.7 **Orica** – Ammonium Nitrate Storage Kooragang Island KC ( report submitted) Orica survey now opened for all to complete.

6.8 **Stockton Community Environment and Safety Issues** ( report attached)

7. Correspondence list available

8.General Business & Business without notice

1. Please note meeting dates for 2021: included below – dates maybe flexible
2. JA proposed Every 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to have a forum , the opposite to regular meeting structure .

I.e. - Crown land would be the first topic. Community proactivity on what SCG could come up with Aiming to create a community draft crown plan

3. Men’s Shed proposal - EOs for a group to develop the concept. (could be shed used at other times by other groups subject to funding )See Boyd Allan or email SCG
4. Next protest ( JA provided background ) proposed to line the break water /wall to garner attention
5. Bike hire proposal - SM /KS are working on a proposal for bike hire and tours of Stockton .
- 6.. Calendar of speakers to be created I.e. marine rescue .JA/AR/MT
7. Memorials on rocks - Conflicting emotions for walkers . Discussion on options and management strategy. For example - Create memorial walk or Memorial space to be established to allow for memorial plaques in a safe space. Identified RMS are responsible for the land. Group required to investigate proposals & possible development of guidelines. Julie C & Julie F. Ideas can be sent to SCG email. Possible development of guidelines.
8. Request for fenced in dog area & dog poo bags facility.
9. Neighborhood watch – a suggestion received to revisit Neighbor hood watch. Held over until Police guest speaker for advice.

9. Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April Stockton Surf Club 7:15

## Dates, Time, and Venue of SCG meetings 2021

**Venue:** Stockton Surf Club

**Time:** 7:15pm - 8.30pm

Date /Month

28<sup>th</sup> January 21

10<sup>th</sup> March

14<sup>th</sup> April 21 ( forum & short meeting tbc)

12<sup>th</sup> May 21

9<sup>th</sup> June 21

14<sup>th</sup> July 21

10<sup>th</sup> August 21

15<sup>th</sup> September 21

13<sup>th</sup> October 21

10<sup>th</sup> November 21

8<sup>th</sup> December 21 (3 weeks)

## APPENDIX 1

### Tabled reports -Item 6 Working Party Reports 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

#### 6.5 Beach Interest Group Feb 2021 Activity Summary

**Current Members:** Ron Boyd, Willow Forsyth, Ron Holbrow Amanda Plumstead, Peter Twining, Ian Taggart.

#### **Key Point for Dec-Jan 2021.**

- Received (and paid invoice for) final report from ICM regarding Stockton beach. Report clearly notes:
  1. Deepened Channel and breakwaters responsible for interruption of natural sand supply
  2. Past role of climate change & sea level rise in impacting present erosion state likely small
  3. Ongoing sand losses are not cyclical but are year-on-year progressing
- SCG need to best decide on the timing of the release of this report to achieve and support other SCG activities to achieve maximum impact. To that end we need to have an SCG discussion and limit circulation of the ICM report in the meantime. Report has been circulated to focus group members.

- Current Stockton Beach Status:
  1. Council firmly attached to mass sand nourishment aspiration
  2. Increasing awareness that “shovel ready” means CoN needs to seek permission to place sand and that when this has been tested in the past – good sand is dumped due to non-readiness. THIS SHOULD BE A COMMUNITY FOCUS POINT/
  3. We note steps to get community representation on both Federal and State groups in regards offshore dumping per 2004 existing NSW approval for South Arm dredging and associated EIS conditions ( that mention consideration of community use at Stockton be considered) The Same EIS states what happens if approvals are NOT in place.
  4. Gasdock project submission explicitly states the “Have prior dredging approval” and therefore permission to dump. Gasdock EIS therefore contain NO FURTHER mention of dredging. Community needs to HOLD Gasdock (EPIK) to account to fulfil ALL the requirement of the 2004 EIS. They have a vested financial interest in placing sand on Stockton beach.
  5. Latest CoN works update issued
    - Koya bags soon to be placed near Barrie crescent (filling stage complete)
    - No mention of revetment progress south of Seawall
    - No mention of Seawall repairs
    - Suggestion: We should ask that a list of updates for mandatory point be included in each monthly update ( so as to maintain a line of sight on key issues)
    - Subtle mention that (currently unfunded) HCDC study will also look at placing sand on Stockton Beach – unsure if this also delays the “shovel ready” program that CoN needs to manage along with the increased risk that offshore dumping is the only viable option in the meantime ( if the State approves Gasdock in the meantime). We need to obtain clarification on this issue.
  6. River Sand study by HCDC still not funded/approved. This was the alternative that 50,000 m3 of trucked sand approved in CMP dropped without notice.
  
- Recent SCLG meeting.
  1. Council officers communicated DO nothing outcomes may include short term retreat and *long-term* peninsula risk (i.e. sea breach at narrowest point).
  2. Announced BlueCoast as leading consultant for 2021 CMP component
  3. BlueCoast & Council have prepared a shortlist of options ( all including unspecified mass nourishment) for further consideration for 2021
    - i. Increased maintenance dredging and placement
    - ii. Headland ( near old sewerage works)
    - iii. An offshore reef
    - iv. Sand back passing based wholly within CoN LGA ( no Port Stephens component)

## 6.6 Stockton Community Environment and Safety Issues/Crown Land Report

- The above two groups have now combined, a new name required.
- **Whispers on Wharf:** concerns over visual appearance of bins and infrastructure around exterior of container café. Blue screening to be installed by CN to soften visual appearance. No timeline provided. Progress will be monitored by group members.
- **Ausgrid Substation screening:** Ausgrid have stated they are happy to complete beautification, screening or possible art works. Ideas for this to be brainstormed by group members and contact made with CN to discuss options.
- **Ferry wharf:** Previous request for cleaning to be followed up.

- **Skate park black mesh fencing:** Previous request for removal of black fencing to be followed up.
- **Cabin relocation:** recent email 24/2/21 to CN failed to provide ETA on relocation of cabins etc. Potential community Facebook survey regarding future of cabins on this site.
- **Shopping centre cleanliness:** Meeting to be arranged with owner and follow up with council if present Mitchell St upgrade includes improved drainage to car park.
- **Bike path lighting:** Source funding options.
- **Netball court relocation to Corroba Oval:** Meeting to be arranged with President. Need to request that CN stop making changes on Crown Land until Plan of Management is finalised, due 2021.
- **Ugly Area between library and funeral business:** beautification ideas to be explored.
- **Welcome to Stockton sign:** ideas and funding to be explored.
- **Mapping and creating plan for crown/community land in Stockton:** maps etc. to be collated.

### 6.7 Ammonium Nitrate Working Party: Orica Update

Orica's latest newsletter has an article on the scrubbers for the Prill tower to reduce PM 2.5 levels - It won't be fully operational until 2023. At present they are doing the detailed design and in 2022 they will procure the equipment and in 2023 install the equipment. The Community Reference Group meeting was held on 22 February and I attended this meeting. There was no environmental on compliance for the last quarter. There was a community complaint about brown emissions which in NO2 emissions from the start up of one of the nitric acid plants. The nitric acid 1 plant stack is being replaced - that is the tallest stack. They are also working on a project to reduce the emissions of nitrogen to the Hunter River by 10% - 20 to 30 tonnes per year. Another project is working on NOx reduction targeting 30% reduction with work on the ammonia reformer.

Community investment applications open on 1 March and close the 31 March. I also asked about greenhouse gas emissions as the Orica plant on KI is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the Newcastle LGA. They are looking at green ammonia and other ways of reducing their carbon footprint.

### MARCH 2021 TASKFORCE REPORT

The last Deputy Premier's Stockton Beach Taskforce meeting on 8 December, followed the lodgement of the offshore exploration licence for identifying suitable sand for massive renourishment of Stockton beach. Then came the announcement on Thursday 11 February that the licence had been approved.

Work has now begun on mapping the seafloor and collecting sand samples.

The second significant item on the 8 December Taskforce agenda was an update on the grant application for the feasibility study of sand in the Hunter River South Arm. This feasibility study was supported at the earlier October Taskforce meeting so the Grant Application approval delay is one of the reasons we three community representatives (Barbara Whitcher, Callan Nickerson and Ron Boyd ) wrote to the Deputy Premier on 17 February.

City of Newcastle lodged the Grant Application with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on 23 December but nothing has been heard about its approval so we have asked the DP to expedite the process. This is doubly important because the Grant Application included provisions for the establishment of a pathway to place sand on Stockton beach from any suitable, opportunistic source, including the Hunter River South Arm.

We have also requested a second agenda item for the next Taskforce meeting: consideration of adequate modifications to the Newcastle Harbour Dredging Permit. For example, if GasDock is approved, there is no requirement for DPIE to insist that available sand is placed for beneficial reuse on Stockton Beach.

That means it could be dumped out to sea!