

Stockton Community Group Meeting Date: 28th January 2021

Venue: Stockton Surf Life Saving Club

PRESENT: Members: Boyd Allen, Jenny Allen, Ron Boyd (RB), Rainnie Carter (RC), Keith Craig (KC), Lloyd Davies, Jeanette Dib, Willow Forsyth, Sheila Moran (SM), Les Moran, Alison Rigby, , Anna Flamminio, Ron Holbrow, Dave Williams (DW), Anna Stewart, Alan Newbery, Melanie Taggart (MT) ,Jan Taggart (IT), Peter Twining, Barbara Whitcher (BW).

Non Members: Tina Boyd, Claire Charles, Renato Flamminio, Norah Groves, John Hunter, Karen Tomati-Watts, Mark Rigby, Karen Sampson, Jessica Braun, Mike Hocking-Gill, Sheldon Newey, Sue McIntire, Andrew Parker, Darren Lewis, Neale Raphael, Cathy Shepherd, Merryl Williams, Geoff Williams, Phillip Wilson, Zofia Wilson

APOLOGIES: Michelle Tamms, Tobias Hudson, Cathy Burgess, Debbie Griffiths, Scott Brooks, Marilyn Williams, Jess Kite,, Amanda Plumsted.

In attendance for agenda item 4 PCWS Presentation

Trudie Larnach - Manager Sustainability and Corporate Affairs

Glenn Cook - Environmental Specialist Mark Carlin - Operations Superintendent

Karen Marples - Sustainability & Community Relations Advisor

Mark Feeney - Operations Manager

TIME COMMENCED: 7pm **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.

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

Item 4: Minutes.

JA & all Minutes accepted

Item 5: Presentation

PCWS Presentation & Questions

PCWS team provided an overview of the PCWS operation & community relationships, providing services to the local coal industry. See the PPT attached (SCGvisit_28012021_inc additional info.pdf)

GC outlined the Dust Management Processes - (intelligent dust management system IDMS)

- Coal movement
- Site - automated system based on weather forecasting & risk to control dust movement.
- Onsite water cart, managed spraying
- Operations - 24 x7 capability to close operation if dust levels reach 400 micrograms per cubic metre. Monitoring is critical

Air quality & dust management – monitoring network. Links to government sites for air quality monitoring from PCWS web site

<https://pwcs.com.au/community-environment/community-relationships/>
<https://www.ncig.com.au/>
<https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality/air-quality-concentration-data-updated-hourly>
Individuals can Subscribe for SMS alerts

Questions to PCWS team on DUST Emissions

Q *How often does the alarm sound?*

A: PCWS alarms activates accordingly. Level to shut down varies rare. Possibly once a year

Q: *What is the average emission of coal dust*

A: 50 micros cubic per cubic metre is average

Q: *What are the monitoring processes*

A: NSW Government Monitor alarms encompass all sources in the area not just PCWS

Q: *Is regular respiratory testing done on site?*

A: Testing is conducted monthly on site for respiratory health issues. (employee testing is voluntary)

Keith Craig provided context to the group from his membership of NCCCE

Q: *Is Spray adequate to keep dust management under control.*

A: Not strong enough to do all stockpiles simultaneously, only one at a time. (during strong westerlies)

Discussion on spray & IDMS. Designed to build crust on stockpiles.

IDMS triggers spray cycle and each spray will trigger in stages (as not enough water and or pressure, design issue)

Q: *How fine is the dust being generated.*

A: Monitor on Stockton is 2.5 Annual reporting on annual emissions.

Different levels of dust particles (JA) 2.5.

Discussion on Character Particle study (details from JA) ACTION JA to send CSIRO study details to PCWS

Q: *Why aren't the stacks covered (as in other ports around the world)*

A: Not part of the design of the sites in Newcastle. Not currently under consideration.

Q *Spray when going onto ships* **A:** Yes

Q : *Does pre-emptive spraying occur?*

A: Weather forecasts/checks dictate spraying cycle. Westerly - Stockton issues related to Carrington site rather than Kooragang site. So, can it be remediated as primary source of issues. PCWS both systems the same and both sites are investigated if there are issues.

Q: *Is the Idms specific solution investigated?*

A: PCWS confident that the system is robust and working with government.

Discussion

On the windiest days is data available on how much dust escapes as opposed to average. Experience on highest days, could provide information to assist with minimising dust - what is the data which could assist with solving the problems

Q: *Is it possible to Minimise stockpile?*

A: Would be difficult to achieve

Q: *Dust in Stockton can be attributed to PCWS - is it acknowledged that dust is directly from PCWS. However other pollutants also contribute to dust / pollution. Is all dust associated with PCWS or is it diesel from ships as well?*

A: Acknowledged that dust from a range of sources.

Q: *Roof dust and dirt is of concern as all Stockton households may have large quantities in their rooves. Is there some way to have it removed?*

A: Old houses will have dirt in roof spaces & there is not a service to vacuum out.

Q: *Can the trains transporting coal be covered?*

A: Uncovered trains - responsibility of haulage providers (shared interest) not PCWS

Summary JA - Community understand levels & actions PCWS have in place but community doesn't feel its adequate. Further work is required in the following areas

- health issues (i.e. asthma /heart etc) in Stockton in comparison to other communities
- Lifestyle (i.e. - black dust & households)

SCG is keen to partner with PCWS to improve the air quality and investigate health & Lifestyle as the issues are an everyday occurrence.

PCWS urged everyone to use Feedback mechanisms on web site. Please send feedback asap do not wait !!!!! (call or web)

Community partnerships & Community Survey overview

- Funding & community investment highlights
- Key message if there are initiatives for community investment from SCG please contact PCWS. Community funding available all year round
- Stakeholder engagement through survey link below

- Register for local voices PWCS.COM.AU/SURVEY Register for Local Voices Also past survey results

Comment web site that records epa levels & track - appreciate PCWS web site

Q - *Where does pcws go to look up next steps for upgrades for instrumentation & management for the future proofing?*

A: Through the continuous improvement cycle constant upgrading occurs (low noise drive technology used as an example of change)

JA thanked the speakers for their presentation and also reiterated SCG share concerns with PCWS re neighbour Orica SCG .

ACTION: JA asked the SCG group to email

- **with concerns action points**
- **Project ideas for community Funding ideas**

Item 6: Outstanding Actions

JA noted:

Outstanding Actions/Items

6.1. Change of format of SCG minutes. JA updated group. New format adopted as per 3rd December - completed. The group nominated AR as temporary secretary (KC, seconded MT)- completed

6.2. Draft communication strategy: This will need to be revised and sent to all SCG for comment

ACTION: ALL Feedback required by 11th February.

6.3. **Sharon Fraser and Dan Bright have been given a gift** of thanks for value of \$100 each. JA/IT. Delivered Monday 11th January

6.4. **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 IT

6.5. **HW site:** possible fencing options discussed. Need to follow up with options for comment from SCG. JA ACTION: ALL feedback required by 11th February

6.6. Incorporation of SCG ACTION: IT Some difficulties with constitution investigating options. In train

6.7. **Treasure Island proposal:**

An account has been set up for the account 'Treasure Island fund'. IT

Description, criterion and purpose to be written for fund. ACTION JA in conjunction with SM & LM.

Update on the project - explore option for council bikes for out of hours option. Shop front
- In train

6.8. Rates for Stockton senior citizen rates should be waived, letter to NCC. - completed

6.9. Review Action List - completed

Item 7: Standing Agenda Items

Standing Agenda Items: Reports tabled and included in minutes for noting.

7.1 Treasurers report - IT currently \$5,000.

7.2 Stockton Community Liaison Group meeting BW

- a. Council update available 29/1. Available in various locations in Stockton (i.e., Library, Newsagency) Council website.
- b. SCL workshop 25/2 with NCC & stakeholders to the north. Feasibility study from Meredith st to end of LGA. Includes Hunter water. 5 reps from SCG /SLG.
- c. Preparatory meeting for workshop
- d. Information / Update required from Deputy Premier taskforce to be discussed at workshop
- e. -SLG - is a consultation group.

7.2 Premiers Taskforce Report – BW

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7.3 Port Authority meeting DW

6.3.1 Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund DW – NIL

7.4 NCCCE KC. Meets quarterly. First meeting to be held in February. Any questions/ issues to KC

Working Party reports

7.5 Stockton Beach inclusive of Newcastle CMP: IT noted a report sent out before meeting

- Vale Bruce Niblett a strong member of the group

Options for the beach

IT provided overview of Beach, governance, and responsibility for remediation

Generally agreed that sand nourishment is a key strategy

A) offshore sand (deputy premiers taskforce working on this option)

No sand on the beach in 2021. Require a solution however will be a 2-year process. It would be useful if a timeline could be delivered. However difficult to plot. Long term solution.

B) River Sand - quality assurance required and then delivery options. Study currently underway.

Option B is considered by IT as the best option .

Remove the tank traps - suggested to contact NCC. Watching brief for government groups

7.6 Crown land usage inclusive of Caravan park RC

A. Meeting scheduled in February. Mindful cabins on crown land for 12 months. Worimi people agreement for temporary locations. Area is looking run down. Members required for this group. Aiming to be proactive and present usage options to NCC

B. Whispers on the wharf – was implemented without DA

The site requires beautification as the back of the cabin is the first thing you see – gas bottles etc.

Ideas to Rainie.

7.7 Orica – Ammonium Nitrate Storage Kooragang Island: KC noted a report was sent out before meeting

7.8 Stockton Community Environment and Safety Issues JA report sent out before meeting

MT will take over the convenor/ chair of the group.

Item 8. Correspondence

Please contact JA if want to see copies of any recent correspondence as noted in the agenda.

Item 9. General Business and Business without notice

General Business and Business without notice:

Vale **Bruce Niblett**. JA paid tribute to Bruce and thanked him for his contribution and commitment to SCG.

9.1 An election was conducted for secretary after Debbie Griffiths vacating the role. Alison Rigby was nominated by Keith Craig and Seconded by Melanie Taggart. The vote was successful.

9.2 SM spoke to the proposal for Bike Hire in Stockton **ACTION: SM and JA to work on a proposal to present to SCG.**

9.3 . **Meeting dates** - amendment -Please note meeting dates for 2021: included below proposal to change date to 4th Wednesday of the month. Any major feedback by 11th February

9.4 **Mark Widdup and Art Exhibition** - great success and anticipated donation

9.5. **Newcastle Stronger Communities Grants Expressions** of Interest now open. Please forward ideas in the next 2 weeks **ACTION: check website for details) Due Date: 19th February 2021.**

<https://www.business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/stronger-communities-programme#key-documents>

9.6. **Sea dumping act** - RB provided an overview of the process. port 10yr dumping license about to expire. Proposed SCG could act as community stakeholders. could then assess with Federal government with process.

Motion by RB to request SCG apply to be stakeholders in Licensing process to Commonwealth Department of Environment.

Carried: SCG attendees **ACTION: JA to write letter & Ron Boyd would be representative.**

9.7 **Workshops** – RB noted the coastal management opportunity for SCG to take ideas forward
- Own our own model & causes of erosion (available on save Stockton beach website)

ACTION: comments to SCG for collation JA

9.8. **North Stockton regeneration of hunter water land.** RB noted that SCG be proactive and have it included in park land. transfer to NSE park lands. ACTION RB requires a group /subgroup to work on proposal

No further general business - **Meeting closed 9:15pm**

Next Meeting Wednesday 7pm 17/2/2021 (TBC) Venue: Stockton Surf Life Saving Club

Revised Dates, Time, and Venue of SCG meetings 2021

Venue: Stockton Surf Club

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm

Date /Month

17th March 21

14th April 21

19th May 21

16th June 21

14th July 21

18th August 21

15th September 21

20th October 21

17th November 21

15th December 21 (3 weeks)