



NEWSLETTER

By the community. For the community.

<https://stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au>
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JUNE/JULY 2021

We are

Incorporated Stockton Community Group (SCG Inc) run by volunteers that seeks to promote Stockton Community interest.

We do

Originally formed to address air quality concerns (from Kooragang Industries), today our focus is on four main areas represented by four working groups:

- General street beautification.
- Ongoing air quality, coal dust, NO2 and PM2.5 (fine particles) emissions.
- Loss of beach amenity and continued shoreline losses (Beach Group).
- Future use of the crown lands foreshore areas.

We act as a lobby group to make sure our community's interests are heard.

We regularly invite outside speakers to talk to us on topics of interest.

How & Why you should be involved

Having a large member base improves our voice and means our needs can be better heard.

You can be kept informed and contribute (if you wish).

Monthly meetings provide an opportunity to be kept up to date.

We invite you to join (\$2.00 pp fee each year – form & instructions below).

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ACTIVE – JUST LEND YOUR VOICE.

Key Dates

Wednesday 14/7/21 at 7.15pm at SSLSC
SCG Inc. meeting with a guest Speaker from Local Police Force.

Wednesday 11/8/21 at 7.15pm at SSLSC
SCG Inc. AGM plus guest speaker
please check Website for details closer to date.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Tear off / Fill in / Place in envelope with funds & drop to PPSurf Shop or check website for electronic payment details. Fee \$2.00 pp per year).

Name(s)

Email

Address

Phone number

Recently we have worked on

Support, Planning and Contributions to Past and future Stockton Beach Rallies. Our group is currently planning for a follow-up rally aimed at getting a timeline for mass sand placement.

- Contact and pressure local and state government about the beach, environment and local suburb issues.
- Behind scenes activity drawing attention to a range of public spaces (Fort Wallace upkeep & repair, Ferry wharf cleaning & maintenance, repairs to park benches, removal of graffiti).
- Meetings and representation with Port Waratah Coal Services, ORICA, EPA NCCCE (environmental issues in Newcastle LGA), Stockton Community Liaison Group (CoN appointed residents group).
- Construction of an active web site. (While we support the Stockton Community Facebook pages – our organisation is a separate entity).
- Community fundraising BBQ (with live music and support from local businesses).
- Incorporation is now complete. Allowing us to apply for grants with other community groups to maximise grant opportunities.
- Commissioned and received independent Coastal Engineers reports to show why our Beach has eroded.
- Contacted Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) to seek the legal obligation of the State to fix the damage caused by their breakwaters and deepened channel entrance.
- This newsletter!

Present Concerns Stockton Beach

(Current focus items from the SCG Inc. beach group).

Despite many press releases there is **NO FUNDED PROJECT** and **NO TIMELINE** that actually places sand on Stockton Beach.

A Stockton Beach Task Force has been formed that has supported further studies around sand sources, but progress is slower than anticipated, and no-one seems willing to own a timeline to place sand.

Today only opinions exist as to when mass sand might actually appear on the beach. Estimates range from 18 months to 5+ years.

Items that qualified for 2:1 state funding in the 2020 Coastal Management Plan (CMP) (endorsed Aug 2020), have either been dropped or delayed.

Since then Kyowa bag work (not in 2020 CMP) was committed to by City of Newcastle (CoN) without up-front funding approval. (Subsequently State funding was denied). In simple terms, appear promising solution, the cost to ratepayers has increased.

While Stockton waits for mass sand to be placed, unprotected parts of the shoreline are likely to continue to be lost in future storms.

SCG believes the NSW Government have a moral and legal obligation to provide a timely remedy to the erosion caused by their port infrastructure (which is widely acknowledge by coastal engineers).

SCG would support CoN asking for funds to place substantial volumes of river sand on Stockton Beach in the current 2021 CMP.

Crown land use

CoN is currently developing a Crown Land Management plan for the locations such as the ballast areas, parks and sporting fields We would like to hear from you about uses of this land before this is decided for us by CoN.

Air quality

If anyone has ongoing concerns it is important to call the EPA complaints line on 131555 to report any environmental concerns such as air, noise and water pollution. The EPA relies on residents logging complaints to target their actions If you let the SCG know of any environmental pollution concerns, we can raise them with the EPA.