

SCG Inc Annual report 2022

(January - September 2022)

The annual report for 2022 encompasses nine months of activity in the Stockton Community Group Inc. and allows synchronisation for future reports. Annual reports & AGMS will run from September to September each year. During 2022 the most notable activities undertaken were increased communication with all levels of government & greater collaboration on community issues & beach erosion.

2022 SCG President & Executive group:

January - April: President elect Jenny Allen. Jenny stepped down from the role of president in April. At the May meeting a vote of thanks was given. Recognising Jennys' work in raising the profile of the SCG Inc. with key stakeholders & her willingness to tackle the tough issues.

May – September: Alison Rigby & Melanie Taggart. Co Interim President.

Executive Group

Ian Taggart, Rainnie Carter, Carolyn Bailey, Keith Craig, Ron Holbrow, Shannon Newey, Alison Rigby, Melanie Taggart.

As an Incorporated body, the group required an executive group with a minimum 7 members. The executive group met monthly, prior to the SCG meetings The Executive developed key directions and governance for 2022. Special thanks to Ron Holbrow & Sheldon Newey who are stepping down from the group this month.

SCG Inc Achievements 2022

- Citizen advocacy – Increased support from the community in raising issues with council & corporate bodies.
- Membership maintained at 180 members
- Shopping centre issues of parking & pigeons (see below)
- 7 meetings in 2022 (5 guest speakers from Stakeholder corporations around the port)
- 3 Newsletters (electronic and print – delivered to 2,000 households in Stockton)
- Increased social media presence (new Instagram account launched & social media strategy developed)
- Redline Rally 2022 (see below)

2.Key Strategies for 2022

2.1 Open Channels of Communication with all levels of government

Newcastle City Council.

In March members of the executive met with the Lord Mayor & key staff. It was an opportunity to discuss concerns around communication & highlight key issues impacting the local area, including the Shopping Centre & Beach Erosion. SCG Inc members continue to log enquiries via the CN customer portal and letters to the Lord Mayors Office.

Regular Communication with ward 1 counsellors is now ongoing. including regular updates of SCG Inc meeting notes & newsletters.

State Government & Representatives

Communication with the Deputy Premiers office, State government ministers and related departments on a variety of topics, including Beach Erosions, CRMP. Highlighting the issues facing Stockton and the need for action.

Increased communication with state member Tim Crackanthorp

Federal Government

Members of the executive met with the Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Claydon to lobby for support to stop the erosion.

- Correspondence on the CRMP allocation
- Opportunities for federal support on Stockton beach

2.2 Continue to champion Stockton Beach and prevent further erosion

- Red Line Rally was a great success, with 1500+ people attending. The challenge is to maintain pressure on all levels of Government. SCG wrote a letter to support the state government application for federal funding for Coastal and Estuarine Mitigation program (CERMP).
- Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) emails & meeting to discuss options

Unfortunately, we are still waiting for

- a. the 2020 CMP actions to be initiated
- b. Progress from the Deputy Premier's taskforce
- c. Information on the sea dumping permit by PON.

2.3 Continue to represent the community on Stockton Community public works /Environment /Crown Land

Members of the Working Group continue to make written and in-person representation to CN and other agencies, regarding issues of community interest, including

- CN Crown Land Management Plan, draft due for release September 2022
- Removal of cabins from Pitt Street Reserve
- Toilet and shower facilities at break wall/Little Beach
- Use of Rawson Reserve Trust funds

- Toilet facilities at the ferry playground and the retail precinct
- Health and safety issues related to the shopping centre, including accumulation of bird faeces and car park flooding.
- CN Pedestrian Plan

- Improvement of streetscape around the Ausgrid substation expansion, tree planting has commenced
- Investigation of welcome signage at the ferry wharf and road entry from north Stockton

2.4 Continue to monitor Air Quality & Environment – Ammonium Nitrate Storage Kooragang Island & NCCCE (see Appendix 1 for report)

- Increased reporting of concerns to EPA
- Greater community awareness of channels of communication with range of stakeholders on Kooragang Island.

2.5 Provide representation on Hunter Water Board projects and initiatives

- Continuation of land remediation, planting, spraying, and fencing
- Landfill & Beach Erosion
- Community Safety

2.6 Investigate viability & opportunities for the Treasure Island Fund –

SCG Inc was unable to deliver the project. The fund was wound down as the governance & management of such a concept/fund is out of the remit of the SCG.

The fund was initially established by Les & Sheila Moran who wanted to support small community projects in Stockton. However increased opportunities & availability of grants from a variety of community stakeholders has changed the need for such a fund. Special thanks to the Moran's for their public spirit and community support.

3.Future Directions

- Focus in the coming months is on crown lands rezoning to ensure community voice is heard & crown land is utilised in a manner that suits the needs of Stockton
- Continue to fight for Stockton Beach via new campaigns
- Increase stakeholder engagement by ensuring SCG Inc representation on community consultation groups
- Aim to increase membership
- Explore meeting structure, including number of meetings per year & utilising zoom capability for identified workshops & key speakers/activities

Our heartfelt thanks to all members who show their support in attending the monthly meetings regularly and ask the hard questions of the guest speakers.

Finally, we would like to thank the members who provided support in setting up to for meetings, delivering newsletters and worked on the rally. Without whom we couldn't carry on.

Looking forward to working with you over the next twelve months.

Alison Rigby & Melanie Taggart

(co-presidents SCG Inc)

Appendix 1

Air Quality & Environment – Ammonium Nitrate Storage Kooragang Island & NCCCE

1. NCCCE meeting held:

- the quarterly air quality report for Autumn discussed - daily particle levels were within National Benchmarks for 93% of the time with some exceedances for PM 10 particles mainly attributed to sea salt. Annual average PM 2.5 slightly higher than the benchmark mainly due to ammonium nitrate from Orica's Prill tower
- Other topics discussed included the Hexham fire, fish kill in Lake Macquarie (Mannering Park), Koppers fine for pollution incident and Mollycorp trial of used tyres in their furnaces for steel production at Mayfield
- also, a 4-year review of the air quality monitoring stations is being undertaken
- as well this term of the NCCCE is finished and there will be calls members for the next term in the next few months so if anyone is interest this is an opportunity to join the NCCCE

2. Orica CRG Meeting was also held

- Updates were provided on two significant projects one being the PM 2.5 scrubber that is being designed and installed on the prill tower to remove ammonium nitrate PM 2.5 emissions - the project is on track and due to be complete at the end of 2023
- the other is the installation of tertiary abatement vessels to reduce emissions of nitrous oxides is on track and will be installed over the next few months - this will reduce greenhouse emissions from Orica by 50% - Orica is a major emitter of greenhouse gases in the Hunter
- Also, Origin Energy presented on their Hydrogen Hub proposed for Kooragang Island similar to the presentation to the SCG
- also, Orica said they would welcome any other community members joining the CRG