

It was with great disappointment that we recently heard the PON do not have the legal permit to source the sand for the purpose required in the CERMP grant for Stockton Beach, and their dredger is also unable to operate in the depths necessary. This is poor project planning, execution and management from the NSW Government (and others), wasting everyone's time. These issues should have been investigated before the NSW Government applied for this grant, all photos and press releases were premature. We fear that this reflects a lack of commitment for offshore sand nourishment at many levels. Current concerns over appointment of HCCDC as project managers of this project now appear moot, given there appears to be no project.

We are also very disappointed to hear that at present the Port is not placing 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> sand (dredging of sand that is removed for maintenance navigation) a year on Stockton Beach as promised, as their permit has expired. Given the PON has received sustainability awards (2021/22) we are surprised at lack of environmental concern & community engagement for the harbourside suburbs regarding the lapse of a permit to place sand on Stockton Beach. We were not informed of this, this is a significant break down in environmental and community relations and ask the Port to rectify this ASAP.

The community should expect and fear more land loss while these issues are sorted. This is not acceptable as the erosion is known to be caused by NSW owned port infrastructure and deepening of the channel.

We welcome a response from the NSW Government and other advisors on how this situation (CERMP and maintenance sand) has come about.

Stockton will be vulnerable over the summer waiting for the next east coast low and more damage caused by erosion.