



By the community.
For the community.

January 2023

StocktonComGroup@gmail.com | stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au | Find us on

#LessTalkMoreSand

#SaveStockton2295

#RedLineRally2022

#TellUsTheTimeline



SCG INC. UPDATE

Alison Rigby & Melanie Taggart, Co-Presidents

Stockton Residents should remain concerned about beach erosion.

Through Poor Project Management the NSW Government has:

- × Refused to own & deliver a solution to the problem created by state government infrastructure
- × Stalled the implementation of Federal grant funds received in October 2022. The state forgot to obtain necessary permissions.
- × Reluctant to contribute any funding to solve the problem (despite billions of dollars in revenue from the Port activities)
- × Used the CMP process, which is not intended to solve Beach Erosion issues created by Port Infrastructure, to sidestep the issue.

ACTIONS - What can you do?

- ✓ Help SCG Inc send a message to State Government
- ✓ Contribute to the letter writing campaign, more info at: www.stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au
- ✓ Support Politicians in the 2023 NSW Government Election who offer positive policies to solve the Stockton Beach Erosion

- ✓ Prepare to protest after the next East Coast Low

Excerpt of the Letter Sent to NSW Minister for Planning :Re Federal Funds Grant by SCG Inc. December 2022:

Dear Minister Roberts,
While initially overjoyed to hear about the grant and its potential to solve some of our critical coastal erosion problems here at Stockton, we have learned that, so far, there has been no work done on the project. No progress has been made by HCCDC on signing an MOU with the City of Newcastle or appointing an HCCDC Project Manager (initial milestones identified in the project management plan). This is despite this project being time critical due to the arrival of the next season of East Coast Low erosion events peaking in May 2023. So far 2 months (or 30%) of the time to next May has already elapsed before the next loss of beach, caravan park, Stockton Cenotaph, roads and sporting facilities occurs without any sand being delivered, or studies commenced.

This issue is of critical importance to our community as we cannot survive another season of coastal erosion without significant loss of our local landmarks and facilities (the erosion hazard lines have already exceeded the 2025 predictions).

See full letter on website.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Successful Fight Goes On campaign
- New posters around town
 - Letter writing campaign to NSW Government
 - Letter box drop to all residents

Art Competition

- Special thanks to Alan Newbery & Jeanette Dib for creating, coordinating and delivering the art competition.
- See over page for update

Received grants from:

- Stockton RSL (assisted with beach campaign & website)
- Port of Newcastle (microphones & speaker for meetings)

Attended the Origin Hydrogen update at Fern Bay (8th December)

KEY DATES

Wednesday 8th February 7:30pm

SCG Inc Meeting

Venue: Stockton Surf Life Saving Club, Pitt St Stockton

Guest speakers:

Candidates for the seat of Newcastle at the next State Election - Tim Crackanthorp MP(ALP), John Mackenzie (Greens) & others to be advised.

Wednesday 8th March 7:30pm

SCG Inc Meeting

Venue: Stockton Surf Life Saving Club, Pitt St Stockton

Guest Speaker: Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG)

WE ARE

Stockton Community Group Inc. (SCG Inc.) are a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers that seek to act and promote Stockton Community Interests

SCG Inc. Co-Presidents: Alison Rigby, Melanie Taggart

SCG Inc. Secretariat: Vacant

SCG Inc. Treasurer: Lindy Nisbett



@stocktoncommunitygroup

Make sure you are following Stockton Community Group Inc.

SUBURB IMPROVEMENT WORKING PARTY UPDATE

Shopping Centre (51a - 55 Mitchell St)

Concerns about the cleanliness and maintenance of the shopping centre continue to be raised with SCG Inc. Following advice from CN, SCG Inc. attempted to engage the property owners in mediation through the Community Justice Centre. Unfortunately, the owners declined to participate.

SCG Inc. will continue to explore avenues to address issues including accumulation of bird faeces in the arcade and on Mitchell St, access to toilets, repairs and maintenance. If you are impacted by these issues please:

- Discuss your concerns with businesses in the shopping centre
- Lodge your concerns with CN via their online Customer Request portal
- Raise your concerns with our Ward 1 Councillors

Crown Land and Cabins

The City of Newcastle Draft Crown Land Plan of Management 2022 is now on public exhibition. The plan is designed to provide direction

for the use and management of Council managed Crown Land and outlines:

- the key values of the land and its purpose to guide how it will be managed, maintained and improved; and
- indicates how the land may be used or developed including leases, licences and short term uses.

The plan has been prepared to meet legislative requirements under the Crown Land Management Act 2016 which requires a Plan of Management for all Crown Land.

Written submissions on the plan will be received by CN until 4 pm on 31 January 2023. To view the draft plan, and make a submission visit: <https://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/projects/crown-land-plan-of-management>

There are significant areas of Crown Land on Stockton. SCG Inc. are reviewing the document to ensure designated use of this land aligns with community expectation, and to inform further action in relation to the storage of the holiday cabins on Crown Land.

WHY WE ARE DIFFERENT TO COLLAROY BEACH

Given that Stockton Beach is often mentioned along with Collaroy in the media, it is important to list the many ways that Stockton Erosion problem is different, and therefore, so is our case for seeking action from the NSW Government.

Specifically

- For Stockton the assets under immediate threat are crown land (public recreation beach and parks), council roads and key council and public infrastructure (roads, gas, water and sewerage lines, and electricity lines).
- Collaroy has many houses directly backing onto the beach. The press claim climate change is driving Collaroy erosion.
- Stockton erosion has been ongoing for the better part of 100 years since the construction of dual breakwaters and ongoing deepening of the harbour entrance (from 8m to over 22m some 800m from the beach). So while climate change is not helping Stockton's erosion problems, climate change did not build the breakwaters nor dig a 14m deep channel.
- Because 5+ houses have not been at risk at Stockton due to erosion, we have been left off many 'hot-spot' lists in the past. Despite having high recession rates (arguably state highest), losing crown land (and the odd day care centre) has not been enough to put Stockton Beach on these lists.

It is interesting to note that in 2005 the Labor Government stopped requests for sand nourishment for Collaroy Beach (upholding 1993 Liberal Government statements giving no approvals for such purposes).

I LOVE STOCKTON BEACH ART COMPETITION 2022

We were delighted to receive over sixty entries in the I Love Stockton Beach Art Competition 2022. They were extraordinary. They included sculptures, paintings, collages, photographs, poems and even a song with an accompanying video! They revealed the wealth of talent that exists in the Stockton community and the love and respect the community has for its beach.

Our sincere thanks go out to all entrants for sharing their reflections on Stockton Beach and helping to keep the issues associated with it in the public eye over the three months leading up to Christmas and the New Year.

The winners in each category have been chosen and notified. Their names have been posted on Facebook, Instagram and [stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au](https://www.facebook.com/stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au).

Preschool/ Primary - Sunset at the Beach by Zoe aged 9

Secondary - Untitled by Will aged 13

Adult - The Last of Stockton Seaglass by Norah

People's Choice - Moonrise Over Stockton Breakwall by Stu

Grand Prize - The Stocko Kid by Rosemary

