

## Stockton Community Group Inc Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Venue:** Stockton Surf Club. Pitt St, Stockton

**Chair:** Alison Rigby/Melanie Taggart

**Minutes:** Carolyn Bailey

### **1. Meeting Opened: by Alison Rigby at 7.31 pm with Acknowledgement of Country**

**Present:** Alison Rigby, Carolyn Bailey, Garry Cullinane, Jeanette Dib, Melanie Taggart, Keith Craig, Alan Newbery, Lindy Nisbett, Julie Foster, Ian Taggart, Willow Forsyth, Keith Craig, Sue McIntire, Ron Boyd, Tina Boyd, Julie Cook, Anna Flamminio, Renato Flamminio

**Apologies:** Barbara Whitcher, Margaret Raphael, Neil Raphael, Scott Brooks, Vic Turrin

### **2. Declaration of conflict of interest:** nil declared

### **3. Confirmation of previous minutes:**

Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> March meeting Accepted: Lindy Nisbett, Seconded: Garry Cullinane

### **4. Guest Speaker – Rod Cheney and Ethan (recruit) Fire & Rescue NSW: Stockton**

Rod and Ethan discussed issues of home fire safety and the role of the fire service. The service covers the Stockton and Fern Bay communities and industrial facilities on Kooragang Island with 13 on call fire fighters and 1 recruit, and approx. 160 fire incidents p.a.

Community members can book an in-home fire safety check that includes installation or replacement of smoke detectors and long-life batteries free of charge.

Home visits can be booked via <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9316> or call the station on 02 49272546

Further information on fire safety and recruitment can be found at:

<https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9210&station=273>

### **5. Outstanding and New Actions**

**5.1 Orica Event:** Keith Craig updated the group on the emergency shut down event on 23/03/23. The explanation of events in the Orica press release did not address issues of concern for our community. A letter has been prepared to send to Orica, Tim Crakanthorp (Minister for the Hunter) and journalist. Keith will follow up at the Orica Community Representatives Meeting in May.

**5.2 Beach and Mitchell Street Works:** Alison Rigby, Melanie Taggart, Ian Taggart & Ron Boyd participated in a walk-through of the buried beach terminal protection structures commencing at Pembroke St in April. Of key interest:

- Project will take approx. 6 months
- Mitchell St will be limited to one-way North (from Hereford to Pembroke)
- Concrete will be highly visible initially but will be cut down to street level

Further information is available at:

<https://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/living/environment/our-coastline/coastal-erosion-at-stockton/stockton-works-updates/new-buried-seawall-southern-end-of-mitchell-street>

**5.3 Shopping Centre Update:** Carolyn Bailey reported efforts continue to engage with the shopping centre owner to improve safety and amenities. Declan Clausen (Councillor) provided the follow up:

- Council has been in contact with the owners and centre management regarding drainage. Council has installed a new drainage pit on Crown Street, to facilitate an improvement. To connect into this new pit, some work is required by the shopping centre owners. Council has provided some engineering advice and several options to assistance to facilitate an outcome. A DA would likely be required by the Centre to deliver this, and Council has put them in contact with qualified designers.

- Bird spikes were observed by Council staff as have been recently installed, and having been somewhat successful in limiting (but not eliminating) the pigeons. While unsightly, the view from officers was that thresholds for regulatory action have not been met.
- Council staff (in plain clothes) were able to access the toilets when they requested access as a customer at one of the shops

SCG Inc continues to liaise with CN and Councillors to address ongoing concerns.

## 6. Standing items

**6.1 Treasurers Report:** Lindy Nisbett updated the group on finances. The bank balance is \$5,647.77. There have been no transactions since March report. A funding submission is being prepared to seek support for printing of newsletters.

### Working party updates

6.2 Stockton Beach Group: (Alison Rigby and Melanie Taggart)

- Next campaign will focus on holding the government of the day to account for commitments made in the lead up to the March State election
- The April SCG Inc. newsletter details key messages and need for project manager to be appointed
- Co-chairs wrote letter of congratulations to Tim Crakanthorp on his new Ministerial appointments and reminding him of his ongoing commitments to Stockton Beach.

6.3 Air Quality & Environment: (Keith Craig)

- Quarterly Air Quality Report pending
- Letter to be written to Tim Crakanthorp to advocate for the NCCCE (EPA) committee to be reconvened – **Action Melanie Taggart/Alison Rigby**

6.4 Community/Crown Land (Carolyn Bailey)

- Awaiting response to correspondence to Department of Lands and Environment re the cabins on Crown Land and shopping centre car park and related issues
- Working Group members are seeking a meeting with Ward 1 Councillors to discuss funding for public toilet facilities and upgrade of Lion's Park car park

6.5 Stockton Community Liaison Group (SCLG) (Alison Rigby)

- Draft Extended Coastal Management Plan pending

## 7. General business/Business without notice

7.1 Lodging an issue with CN: Attendees raised general issues, such as increasing number of free campers at the north boat ramp. SCG Inc Executive encourages community members to lodge issues with CN using a Customer Request Form, this formalises the issue with a reference number that can then be used for follow up with CN staff and Councillors.

<https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about-us/forms-and-publications/forms-and-permits/customer-request-form>

7.2: Windfarm submissions: closing date for submissions is the 28<sup>th</sup> April

8. **Meeting closed:** 8:50 pm. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May Stockton Surf Club @ 7:30 pm