

Stockton Community Group Inc Meeting Minutes

Date: 9th August 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: Carolyn Bailey, Scott Brooks, Ann Clark, Keith Craig, Garry Cullinane, Jeanette Dib, Willow Forsyth, Mike Hocking Gill, John Hunter, Sue Luke, Sheila Moran, Julie Napier, Alan Newbery, Georgina Owens, Margaret Raphael, Alison Rigby, Mark Rigby, Ian Taggart, Melanie Taggart, Vic Turrin, Barbara Whitcher, Greg Walkin, Olha Haskka **Apologies:** Ron Holbrow, Lindy Nisbett

2. Declaration of conflict of interest: nil declared

3. Confirmation of previous minutes:

Minutes of 12th April 2023 meeting Accepted: Alan Newbery, Seconded: Keith Craig

4. Outstanding and New Actions

4.1 Beach and Mitchell Street Works

- Project has been delayed and now linked to CN Plan for Dalby Oval and the Soldiers memorial
- Work will take approx. 6 months once commenced

5.3 **Shopping Centre Update:** No progress on issues of concern to local community. SCG Inc continues to liaise with CN and Councillors to highlight ongoing concerns.

5.4 **Windfarm Proposal:** the windfarms footprint has been amended and reduced in size by 1,000 square kilometres. <https://www.dccew.gov.au/about/news/hunter-region-declared-suitable-for-offshore-wind>

6. Standing items

6.1 Treasurers Report: Please see attached end of year financial report.

Since then, \$500 has been spent on website, \$650 on newsletter and \$30 received in membership fees. A funding submission has been submitted to PWC for \$3000 to support production of the newsletter.

Working party updates

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

- See Agenda item 4.1

6.3 Air Quality & Environment: (Keith Craig)

- Work has commenced on installation of the \$36m scrubber at Orica, due to be completed mid-2024.
- Installation of reactors to reduce nitric acid-nitric oxide greenhouse acids has commenced.
- The future of the NCCCE forum is yet to be confirmed. There have been no air quality reports issued this year. Letter to be sent to Newcastle MP requesting committee be reconvened. **Action:** AR/MT
- An information session on the Hydrogen Plant on Kooragang was held by Origin Energy during June, approx. 40 people attended. SCG Inc asked questions on:
 - traffic impact on Kooragang
 - noise during construction
 - noise during operation of plant
 - relationship with Clean Energy Hub (PON)
 - Plant safety mechanisms

6.4 Community/Crown Land (Carolyn Bailey)

- No further response to SCG Inc comments on CN Draft Crown Land Management Plan
- The 16 cabins relocated to Crown Land are currently being sold via online auction, closing date

today. The successful bidder is required to remove the cabins within 3 months of settlement.

- Funding from the sale is to go the Rawson Reserve Trust. SCG Inc will continue to follow up on how these funds are utilised
- Ongoing issues being followed up with CN and Councillors include shopping centre issues, Lion's Park car park repair, upgrade of public toilets and access to water and toilets at the Breakwater.

6.5 Stockton Community Liaison Group (SCLG) (Barbara Whitcher)

- Draft Coastal Management Plan pending
- Maintenance using sand scrapping continues with good effect.
- Mitchell St works see Agenda item 4.1.
- King St breakwater access has reopened.
- SCG Inc members (6) are now representatives on the SCLG.
- Ongoing correspondence with Minister Tanya Moriarty to clarify reporting and decision-making responsibilities.
- Concerns raised about the multiple agencies now involved in the beach restoration and related risks.
- There is a letter on SCG Inc website which has been sent to MP's requesting clarification of accountabilities.

7. General business/Business without notice

7.1 NSW Coastal Conference will be held in Newcastle 30th Oct – 2nd Nov. Details at <https://www.coastalconference.com/>. SCG Inc will seek opportunity to support some members to attend.

7.2: Cargill Seed Plant, Kooragang Island has applied for expansion of operating hours. Company, EPA and local MP contacted re concerns with previous history of poor maintenance and strong odours.

7.3: Willow Forsyth advised the group her PHD thesis on flood modelling has been submitted. Willow will be holding a forum on 31st August, 6.15 pm at the Surf Club to share her findings and the critical importance of this work.

8. Guest Speaker: NSW Marine Rescue – Lynette Van Homrigh, Unit Commander Newcastle

Unit Members in attendance: Paul Scrace, George Vielhauer and Geraldine Allen

- The new Marine Rescue base is now operational, located at 67 King St Stockton
- Marine Rescue is a volunteer organisation, not for profit charity, partly funded by NSW government
- Key functions are search and rescue, radio monitoring and on water assistance to the boating community
- There are a range of roles within the unit including radio operators and boat crew. Roles involve intensive training. There are also roles for community members who wish to support the unit but prefer non-operational volunteer work.
- For further information go to: <https://www.marinerescuensw.com.au/become-a-volunteer/apply-to-become-a-volunteer/>

8. Meeting closed: 8:40 pm. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday 13th September Stockton Surf Club @ 7:30 pm