

## Stockton Community Group Inc Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
**Chair:** Alison Rigby/Melanie Taggart

**Venue:** Stockton Surf Club. Pitt St, Stockton  
**Minutes:** Carolyn Bailey

### 1. Meeting Opened: by Alison Rigby at 7.35 pm with Acknowledgement of Country

**Present:** Carolyn Bailey, Scott Brooks, Charlie Brown, Ann Clark, Keith Craig, Carol Cromarty, Garry Cullinane, Lloyd Davies, Jeanette Dib, Jenny Gilson, RonSC Hancock, Sue Luke, Sheila Moran, Alan Newbery, Georgina Owens, Alison Rigby, Mark Rigby, Ros Slattery, Jean Stokx, Ian Taggart, Melanie Taggart, Kerrie Woolfe

**Apologies:** Lindy Nisbett, Barbara Whitcher, Ron Boyd

### 2. Declaration of conflict of interest: held over

### 3. Confirmation of previous minutes:

Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 meeting Accepted: Garry Cullinane Seconded: Ian Taggart

Normal meeting process held over to next meeting

### 4. Outstanding and New Actions – held over

### 5. Standing items – held over

### 6. Treasurers Report – held over

### 7. Working party updates – held over

### 8. General business/Business without notice – held over

### 9. Guest Speaker: Richard Finlay-Jones, Director, Ecoenviro Pty. Ltd

**Topic:** "*Floating Offshore Wind for Newcastle*"? *A quick look into the opportunities and constraints for floating offshore wind projects being developed in the Hunter Offshore Wind Zone*

Richard was introduced by Keith Craig, session chair. Richard provided an overview of his background in the area of renewable energy, current status of energy production, future needs and formation of the Newcastle Offshore Wind Energy Project Australia. EDF Renewables Australia, as part of a strategic partnership with Newcastle Offshore Wind Energy (NOW), is developing an offshore, floating wind farm in Commonwealth waters off the coast of Newcastle.

Information on the partnership and project can be found at:

<https://www.newcastleoffshorewind.com.au/>

Information on the Federal and State wind farm proposal can be found at:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/hunter-region-declared-suitable-for-offshore-wind>

Key presentation points:

- The wind farm is to be located 30 kms off the coastline, west of the deeper waters past the shelf
- It will be 1800 square kms in size
- The Federal and NSW government is seeking 3 – 4 proponents to be licensed to undertake a 7-year work plan that includes environmental impact analysis and build logistics prior to construction commencing. (*Audience members questioned this timeframe as the Federal government has recently proposed a timeframe of 4 year*)
- Challenges in developing floating technology and potential opportunities for support industries to manufacture foundation structures and components such as: cabling and anchors, were identified

- Impacts on sea currents/flows, weather patterns, marine and bird life are concerns that are yet to be assessed and addressed
- Commercial and recreational fishing will be impacted by exclusion zones around the structures.

During and following the presentation there were multiple questions posed to the presenter including:

- Maintenance and disposal of structures. Currently not all components can be recycled. Example given by audience member of disrepair seen at an on-shore wind farm near Esperance WA.
- Relationships and roles of the Federal and State government, and their ability to hold the private owners of the farm infrastructure to account on corporate citizenship and power price agreements
- Cost comparison of onshore, fixed offshore and floating offshore wind energy, coal, solar and nuclear energy
- Location of onshore substations and environmental impact. Audience member advised that a substation is being proposed for north of Fern Bay
- Environmental impact on sea life in particular whale migration patterns

An audience member invited those in attendance to sign a petition opposing the wind farm.

Richard provided contact details for those with further questions:

[rfj@ecoenviro.com.au](mailto:rfj@ecoenviro.com.au)

<https://www.ecoenviro.com.au/>

**10. Meeting closed:** 8:30 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Stockton Surf Club @ 7:30 pm