Stockton Community Group Inc Meeting Notes
Public Forum

Date: 15th April 2026 **Venue:** Stockton Surf Club. Pitt St, Stockton
Chair: Lindy Nisbett **Minutes**: Carolyn Bailey

1. Meeting Opened: by Lindy Nisbett at 7.30 pm with Acknowledgement of Country
Previous Minutes (18/02/26) Accepted: Alison Rigby, Seconded: Garry Cullinane
Attendance: Available on request
Apologies: Ron Boyd, Declan Clausen

2. Presentation by Orica, Kooragang Island
Danial Morton (Site Manager), Nathan Robinson, Nicole Massa
Presentation on decarbonisation pathway (available https://stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au/)

- Reduction in nitric acid emissions reduction
- 1.5 tonnes of CO2 abated
- MCI Carbon has constructed a mobile demonstration plant (Myrtle) for the capture of carbon
- Captured carbon dioxide is made into saleable materials for use by the building industry

https://www.orica.com/en/about-us/locations/global-major-sites/kooragang-island/projects/carbon-capture-and-utilisation

- Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub: Orica awarded $432m grant by ARENA to proceed with a hydrogen hub following withdrawal of Origin Energy from the project
- Aim is to produce a safe source of hydrogen to offset natural gas use that is scalable and sustainable by 2031
- The hub is 100% Orica and not linked to the Port of Newcastle Hydrogen Hub
- Audience questions: related to environmental and community impacts including noise and traffic during construction. Approximately 140 staff will be employed during the build, policies are in place that promote diversity in employment and local procurement processes.

Further information:
https://www.orica.com/en/about-us/locations/global-major-sites/kooragang-island/hunter-valley-hydrogen-project
https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/hunter-valley-hydrogen-hub

- Prill tower scrubbers to capture fine particles during the manufacture process have been installed
- Meeting expected reduction target of 95%
- Community air quality monitoring is ongoing. Data available on Orica website

https://www.orica.com/about-us/locations/global-major-sites/kooragang-island/environment/environmental-monitoring-data/air-monitoring

3. Ward 1 Councillors – Follow Up to February Forum
Charlotte McCabe and Peter Gittens provided feedback on questions raised during the February forum, particularly in relation to free campers and the homeless.

- New overnight parking restriction signs are now being installed at King and Clyde St access to the Ballast grounds.
- Existing signage prohibiting camping on the Ballast (Crown Land) are no longer compliant with state legislation and therefore not enforceable. CN are working to update and replace these signs.
- Use of bollards to further restrict vehicular access to Ballast grounds is being investigated

Council ranger data on enforcement of parking restrictions:

- Stockton makes up 32% of fines issued by rangers, with fines issued for not complying with parking restrictions and parking in a reserve
- 28 fines were issued at the Wharf Crescent precinct, 2 at Clyde St and 2 at North Stockton boat ramp. Fines were issued between 10am and 3.30pm

- Ranger resources: CN has 1 coordinator, 5 rangers and 2 trainees in the LGA, plus parking officers
- CN has introduced an after-hours roster to monitor overnight parking restrictions, primarily late evening and early morning
- CN don't have the resources to monitor internet sites such as Wikicamps to discourage promotion of Stockton as a free camp destination
- The Assertive Outreach Team have been visiting campers on Stockton with those who identify as homeless offered alternate accommodation
- It was acknowledged that if a person identifies as homeless and declines to take up offers for alternate accommodation the situation becomes more challenging and complex

Audience questions and comments related to concerns about the placement of bollards/barriers and potential impact on parking and access to sports such as cricket and soccer.

- Community consultation and a map of parking restrictions, including physical barriers was requested
- Option to set up a free camping area was raised. There are currently no plans to establish this type of amenity on Stockton or elsewhere in the LGA

Question raised on the delayed construction of a new public toilet amenity at the ferry/skatepark which was due to be built in December '25. Delayed due to escalation of construction costs. Redesign of the facility may be required.

- Concerns raised about the community consultation and design process, noted by Councillors

4. Stockton Beach Special Advisory Panel:

Update by community members Barbara Witcher, Willow Forsyth. The following notes supplied by Barabara

- Meeting held Monday 16 March and attended by Ron Boyd, Willow Forsyth and me as community representatives
- Introduced to Michelle Fletcher, Director Marine, Coast, Estuary and Flood and Casey Johnson, the Principal Project Officer -Stockton, the result of a restructuring of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). She started the role on 3 March.
- Good teamwork with Sally Whitelaw (Senior Manager Regional Delivery Coast, Estuary and Flood) and Ingrid Emery (Executive Director Conservation Programs) - the boss. Stockton CERMP gazette in December 2025
- More accurate Timeline from Michelle Fletcher: Environmental approvals REF very soon (a major milestone); BMT report by end of June: mining licence applications in April (offshore mining with Mineral Resources NSW, Crown Lands licence; Environment Protection licence by EPA; fisheries licence) with approvals by August: then after August concentration on dredge availability and mass nourishment and monitoring. Ron has requested a detailed timeline in a GANTT chart or similar format.
- Casey Johnson focusing on dredges and contacts with all people involved with granting licences.
- May/June the storm season and whale migration May to November so sand on the beach likely to be end of 2027 although it is (remotely?) possible that beginning of 2027 if all licences, dredge etc organised.
- We are still pressuring for the David Allan to dump suitable sand on Stockton beach. The situation is complex and we have been urged to "keep our eyes on the big prize". Ingrid and Tim Crakanthoap to look into this further.
- Next meetings on 22 July and 19 October. Much better communication with Michelle and Casey; Willow concentrating on storm surge inundation and Ron has provided reference material.

- Willow provided a summary of progress so far and the unique need to establish policy settings and process for NSW.

- Both representatives feeling more confident with new project leadership
- Ongoing sand “top ups” has now been written into the plan.

Audience questions and comments related to how far the sand nourishment will extend and past work on an off shore reef strategy.

- Mass sand nourishment is the priority strategy going forward.

4. Meeting closed: 8.45pm

5. Next Meeting: September 2026 (To Be Confirmed). Stockton Surf Life Saving Club at 7:30 pm