Stockton Community Group Inc Meeting Notes16th September 2026

Date: 16th September **Venue:** Stockton Surf Life Saving Club

Chair: Lindy Nisbett **Minutes**: Alison Rigby

1.Meeting opened by Lindy Nisbett at 7:30pm with Acknowledgement of Country.

Attendance: Available upon request

Apologies: Amanda Plumsted, Carolyn Bailey, Willow Forsyth. Tim Crakenthorp, Michael Mace.

2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest –** Chair NIL

3. **Confirmation of Previous minutes** – Chair 1st Keith Craig, 2nd Alison Rigby

4. **Guest Speakers**

Presentation by Casey Johnston, Principal Project Officer – Stockton, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) & Michelle Fletcher, Director Marine, Coast, Estuary and Flood DCCEEW

Stockton Beach Sand Replenishment Project

The presentation updated attendees on progress to return sand to Stockton Beach. CJ provided project background, summarised the Stockton Beach project and milestones to date, and outlined the likely project timeline. CJ acknowledged the work undertaken by the community & the Stockton Beach Advisory Panel to ensure nature-based option for sand replenishment.

As part of the project background, an overview was provided of marine environmental considerations and the location, suitability and depth of sand deposits in the identified extraction areas. A Dredge Comparison process was undertaken & consideration of possible tender types: Bottom dumping, Rainbowing & combinations of both.

Next Steps

- Licenses & Permits
- Development of Tender Package & award contracts
- Development of the monitoring & evaluation framework

(PPT presentation available on SCG website)

There was an opportunity for Questions from the Audience

Bottom dumping & Rainbowing - Clarification on costs of each type of dredging was explained.

Why can't Port of Newcastle dump sand? Separate issue to this project & requires changes to existing approval processes. Work is underway in the background by DCCEEW.

What are the suitable areas for dredging? referred to presentation diagram

What's causing the Erosion?

- Breakwater & the deepening of the Harbour
- Storms/ East coast lows

Is the project budget safe? The $21 million funding is secured & dedicated to the project.

Cost of sand? Per unit of sand during pilot sand replenishment project.

Timing of dredging? Industry standard for dredging to be used (allows all year-round dredging using established protocols)

When will we see the dredge? After the tender process is complete, date not specified.

How will replenishment be funded when the project ends? Post project funding is not allocated & will need to be referred to State Government.

4. Other Reports

Orica - Keith Craig (See Appendix 1)

5. **General Business**

Acknowledgement

Lindy Nisbett acknowledged the tireless work to save Stockton Beach undertaken by Kate Johnson, Barbara Witcher, Ron Boyd & Keith Craig. 15 years of community commitment to stopping erosion of Stockton Beach.

SCG Inc Executive 2027

SCG Inc. would welcome member support to keep the group active and relevant to the residents and visitors to Stockton. Several of the Executive Committee members are retiring after serving the group for many years. Official notice of the AGM and Nomination forms for all positions on the Executive Committee will be circulated by email in early October.

The AGM will be held 18th November 7:30pm Stockton Surf Club.

Meeting closed 8:30pm

Appendix 1 – Reports

Orica Community Group Meeting – Keith Craig

Scrubbers
On the environment only information is from the last Orica CRG meeting that the scrubbers at Orica for removing fine PM 2.5 particles are working well with removal above expected performance.

Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub Project
The Orica board approved the Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub project see announcement below.

"I'm pleased to share with you that Orica today announced a Final Investment Decision (FID) to proceed with the Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub (HVHH) - a significant step in bringing this important project to life.

Located adjacent to our existing operations on Kooragang Island (KI), the hub will produce renewable hydrogen via electrolysis using recycled water, grid-connected renewable electricity and a 50MW electrolyser.

The renewable hydrogen will be piped directly to our nearby ammonia plant, replacing around 7.5 per cent of the natural gas currently used as feedstock. At full production, the hub has the potential to free up to one petajoule of natural gas annually – equivalent to the energy needs of up to 50,000 homes.

The project will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, helping to future proof the KI site and securing the continued production of critical products for the resources, agriculture, food, and health industries. It will also deliver a range of broader social and economic benefits by strengthening local manufacturing, contributing to skills development, and engaging local suppliers.

It's important that we recognise projects like this require strong collaboration. Support from the Australian and New South Wales Governments, as well as ARENA, has been instrumental in getting the HVHH to this stage. As the project progresses, we look forward to building on existing partnerships and exploring new ones with government, community, Traditional Owners, business, industry, and education providers.

With the hub set to be Australia's first commercial-scale renewable hydrogen facility, we are proud to be a leader in this space – making meaningful advances in Orica's decarbonisation journey and supporting our ambition of net zero emissions by 2050.

In addition, the HVHH has the potential to be a catalyst for further regional investment, driving industrial growth while at the same time activating a low-carbon ecosystem, and positioning the Hunter as a key enabler of the broader energy transition.

Construction is set to commence towards the end of the year; it is anticipated the facility will be operational by early 2029. "