

Meeting with Opposition Leader Chris Minns

- The proposed meeting was 15 minutes, before leaving for a 5pm commitment in Newcastle; eventually Chris Minns was there for 25 minutes.
- This was Chris Minns' initial visit to see Stockton beach erosion firsthand.
- Deputy Premier's Stockton Beach Taskforce community members Callan Nickerson and Barbara Whitcher were invited; apparently Ron Boyd was unavailable.
- Lucas Gresham, Callan and Barbara (all long-time residents) raised many urgent concerns **including** the extensive erosion over decades, the importance of a Labor funding commitment for massive beach nourishment; the granting of an off-shore mining licence; the anxiety, anger and frustration of local residents; the damaging effects of massive seas on infrastructure including homes, the caravan park, Lexies, the surf club; and the fear of Stockton eventually becoming an island.
- Chris Minns stated if Labor won the state election in late March, Stockton beach and coastline would be Labor's problem and it would be addressed in the lead-up to the election. A particular concern centred on the cost of ongoing sand maintenance (after the initial cost of massive sand nourishment); this was squarely placed on the Port of Newcastle by the three local locals and Tim Crakanthorp.

Extended Stockton CMP – lands north of Meredith Street

- The land north of Corroba Oval is "owned" by Hunter Water (HW) Defence Housing Australia (DHA) and Department of Community () and Worimi Conservation Lands.
- A Zoom meeting was held recently with representatives of City of Newcastle, HW, DHA, with the participation of Amanda Plumsted and Barbara Whitcher. Separate consultations will be held with the Worimi people. This meeting focused on the responsibility that each group would take to help deliver massive sand nourishment and address other community concerns, such as beach access. Ron Boyd participated in the meeting that focused on sand delivery.
- My points of concern included the following: There is no policing of illegal entry onto the beach. Will legal entry be denied and a blind eye continue to be turned to illegal entry? There is a substantial number of growth areas to the north of Stockton (Seaside, Medowie, etc.) including projected housing development on the DHA land and the former Stockton Centre which will all put increased pressure on access to the beach.
- Will CN consider taking over the management of the Hunter Water land eventually? HW has remediated part of the site and removed much of the bitou bush but they should be taking responsibility for decontaminating the entire area. There is allowance for CMP funds in the Act to manage this area for public access
- If no legal pedestrian entry is allowed for, with adequate parking between Meredith Street and the end of the Newcastle LGA, the SCLG and the Stockton community in general will **not support** the Extended Stockton CMP. No commitment, no

community approval. Stockton Beach is clearly land subject to coastal hazards and the coastal management objectives (Coastal Act 7 (2) d) are

- On 13 December there is a Stockton Community Liaison Group meeting with the aim to provide a progress update on the delivery of the Stockton CMP 2020 and feedback from the sand and land management action owners review meetings.

This SCLG meeting will provide the background to support the group to review the revised draft CMP actions. It is intended that draft actions will be circulated post meeting for review. Written comments are to be provided to Council by late January. Comments will be used to guide further collective discussion and refinement of actions at the next meeting.

The meeting will include an update on works relating to the funding provided under the Federal Governments Coastal & Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program.