

Stockton Community Group Meeting Minutes: 9th November 2022

Meeting followed COVID Rules & guidelines as per NSW Health

Acknowledgement of Country

Present: In attendance: Carolyn Bailey, Garry Cullinane, Jeanette Dib, Sue Luke, Michael Megarrity, Marie Morris, Alan Newberry, Lindy Nisbett, Alison Rigby, Ian Taggart, Melanie Taggart, , Georgina Owens, Barbara Whitcher

Apologies: Keith Craig, Margaret Raphael, Rainnie Carter, Sue Macintyre

2. Declaration of conflicts of interest - Nil

3. Confirmation of Previous minutes - Previous minutes from September meeting

Accepted by: Alan Newberry Seconded by: Lindy Nisbett

4. Planning for 2023 & Letter Writing session.

The group discussed

- possible speakers /topics for 2023, suggestions:
 - NCIG
 - Hunter Bird watchers
 - Police Liaison
 - Port of Newcastle – container ship developments
 - Orica - update on site works
- Number of meetings & workshops
 - Suggested total of 6 face to face meetings per year agreed (Feb, March, May, September, October, November)
 - Workshop via zoom in July/August e.g. Crown Lands management plan
 - Extraordinary meetings to be held if urgent issues arise over the winter break

5. Outstanding Actions

- Alison is now attending the NCIG Community Group Meeting, would like an additional SCG Inc. member representative. Discussed benefit of networking with representatives of other harbour suburbs. Contact AR via SCG Inc email if interested
- Work North of Stockton Beach – update given by BW. Current Coastal Management Plan only covers King St to Meredith St. CN working on extending CMP further North to the LGA boundary. Development of a Corroba Oval Plan is also in progress. The CN Stockton Liaison Group have raised concerns re legal access to beach through Hunter Water land and indicated to CN that plans will not be endorsed is legal and safe North Stockton beach access and parking are not addressed. See Appendix 1: Notes from Barbara Whitcher
- Ferry stops proposal: A ferry stop at Wickham is being considered within the Transport Plan. BW advised that Tim Crackenthorp has said a second ferry would run to accommodate the Wickham stop. AR to follow up with LD who raised the issue at the October meeting
- Tourism Profile /tourist guides for Stockton, AR reported email sent to Tourism Newcastle 13/10. Response received 28/10 from Anita Monticone, Marketing Officer. Newcastle Visitor

guide currently being updated & information on Stockton will be added possibly framed as a family day out with a ferry ride, active hub and breakwater walk.

6. Standing Agenda Items

6.1 Treasurers Report: to be circulated with minutes

Working Party Reports. (If meeting held)

6.2 Stockton Beach Group

A new campaign is under way “The Fight Continues “encouraging community members to write letters/emails to politician at all levels of government. The campaign is being communicated by posters/flyers, newsletters linked back to web site for details. So, we encourage everyone to email letters to politicians. Excellent publicity via press & radio. Regional Newspapers, NBN, ABC radio & 2NURFM. Flyers will be distributed to Stockton household early December (TBC).

Federal funding received (\$4.7 Million). Announcement at Stockton Surf Club was attended by SCG Inc. members & was a useful opportunity to discuss erosion issues

Visit to Stockton by Chris Minns, State Opposition Leader. BW updated the group on the recent visit to observe the beach erosion. See Appendix 1: Notes from Barbara Whitcher.

Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) <https://www.edo.org.au> : MT updated group. After an extensive period of negotiation, the EDO have agreed to assign a solicitor to work with SCG Inc. on the Stockton Beach erosion crisis. There will be a cost of \$700 for SCG Inc. Our thanks to the Stockton Beach Go Fund Me organisers who have agreed to fund this cost. Initial work will focus on defining the legal responsibility of stakeholders for the beach damage and repair.

Erosion at the Pines: the very real risk of loss of our pine trees and cenotaph due to beach erosion has been raised with Sharon Claydon (Federal MP). On her advice the Stockton RSL Sub-Branch have been approached and have agreed to escalate concerns for the cenotaph through their State Branch to State and Federal Ministers of Veteran Affairs.

6.3 Air Quality & Environment – Ammonium Nitrate Storage Kooragang Island & NCCCE - NIL

SafeWork NSW is proposing new measures to strengthen the safety of ammonium nitrate storage facilities in NSW which involves introducing mandatory separation distances for storing ammonium nitrate. This would mean ammonium nitrate facilities would need to be a certain distance from population centres and other infrastructure, based on the quantity of ammonium nitrate stored.

Feedback to Safework NSW document required, SCG Inc has written a submission supporting these changes, lodged 31st October. Thanks to Keith Craig & Ian Taggart for compiling the submission

6.4 Stockton Suburb Improvement

Crown Land Management Plan: draft has not been released to date

Toilet facilities: working group is advocating with CN to improve community toilet facilities with a focus on Little Beach, Activity Hub and the shopping precinct. CN have advised no funding currently allocated for works. Will progress to secure funding for the 2023/24 FY. Also advocate for use of Rawson Trust funds to progress facilities at Little Beach/north breakwater.

Cabins on Pitt Street Reserve: CN have advised there are no plans to relocate the vacant cabins. Waiting on the CMP and Holiday Park Plan before further decisions. SCG Inc to contact the Crown Lands Ombudsman for further advice

Shopping Centre car park and walkways: SCG Inc. have attempted mediation through the Community Justice Centre as recommended by CN. The owners have declined offer of mediation. Looking at next steps/options

Suburb welcome signage: negotiations with CN and Aboriginal Land Councils ongoing

Lions Park car park: request lodged with CN to fix and upgrade with car park surface. No response to date, ongoing

6.5 **Stockton Beach Taskforce update/SCLG** – see Appendix 1: Notes from Barbara Whitcher

6.6 **Hunter Water** - Nil

7. **Correspondence** - list available upon request

8. **General Business and Business without notice**

Stockton Fire Station: have written to SCG Inc. with a call out for more volunteers. For further information contact the Fire Station via FaceBook or Ph: 4928 1566

Art competition: update by Alan Newberry. 22 entries to date. Positive promotion by local businesses, and across regional media and schools. Competition closes 31st December 2022

Port Waratah Coal Services Community Meeting: Lindy Nisbett has volunteered to represent SCG Inc. Requested issues community members would like raised with PWC. Issues raised: dust monitoring and traffic impact of future container ship arrivals. Future issues can be submitted to Lindy via the SCG Inc email

Ballast vandalism: group member has lodged the issue of vandalism to the ballast grounds by people in cars. CN have no plans to install CCTV. Community members are encouraged to contact police if they observe damaging behaviour

SCG In Christmas Party: Friday 2nd December, Stockton Surf Club. Tickets available via <https://www.trybooking.com/CDYMH>

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Attendees remained post meeting close to write letters to politicians about the beach erosion. 65 letters were completed.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th February 2023 7.15pm Venue: Stockton Uniting Church Hall (Cnr. of Mitchell & King St).

Appendix 1: Notes from Barbara Whitcher

Minutes documented by: Carolyn Bailey