**Stockton Community Group Inc Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 9th October 2024 **Venue:** Stockton Surf Club. Pitt St, Stockton

**Chair:** Alison Rigby **Minutes**: Carolyn Bailey

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

**Present:** Carolyn Bailey, Scott Brooks, Keith Craig, Garry Cullinane, Willow Forsyth, Alison Rigby, Ian Taggart, Melanie Taggart, Vic Turrin, Barbara Whitcher, Elizabeth Hunter, John Hunter, Ron Boyd, Tina Boyd, Jo Bastian, Michael McGarrity, Alberto Nogues

**Apologies**: Lindy Nisbett, Jeanette Dib, Alan Newbery

**2. Declaration of conflict of interest:** nil declared

**3. Confirmation of previous minutes meeting held:** 14th August 2024 meeting Accepted: Barbara Whitcher Seconded: Keith Craig, Gary Cullinane

**4. Outstanding and New Actions**

**4.1 Stockton Beach Erosion Update** (Ron Boyd): Ron presented an update on current status of beach including graphics that provide visual evidence of erosion rate. Key points:

* June 2024 storms created up to 9 metre wave action contributing to scalloping and damage around the rock bags, Hunter Water site and the vertical wall (The Pines to Pembroke St).
* Erosion is tracking close to Blue Coast data analysis prediction with 60 metres of sand lost since 1974, averaging a metre per year.
* The rock bags are deteriorating faster than anticipated. Newcastle Council have begun remedial work to replace/repair damaged bags.
* Sand renourishment and sand scrapping on the southern/surf club end of the beach has halted predicted erosion rate in that section.

Action: Karenne Jurd (Newcastle Council) to be contacted re durability of the rock bags

**4.2** **SMaRT (Sustainable Materials and Recycling Technology) UNSW**: Alberto Nogues presented to the group on the SMaRT program of work. With discussion on potential involvement of Stockton residents in the development of micro-factories for the recycling of fabric, glass, electronic waste etc. Further information about SMaRT can be found at: <https://www.smart.unsw.edu.au/>

Next steps would be to engage with Newcastle Council and relevant industry partners to gauge interest and feasibility. Alberto will lead a small working group and report back on progress for the November meeting.

Action: Anyone interested in being involved in this project can contact Alberto directly or email: stocktoncomgroup@gmail.com

**4.3 Stockton Centre Housing Proposal** NSW Government has announced a proposal to build 500 homes on the former Stockton Centre site at North Stockton. SCG inc has written to Tim Crakanthorp to express support for improved housing availability and affordability and to highlight infrastructure needs in terms of schools, public transport and traffic management.

**5. Standing items**

**5. 1 Treasurers Report**: Held over

**Working party updates**

**5.2 Stockton Beach Group**: See Agenda item 4.1

**5.3 Air Quality & Environment**: (Keith Craig)

* Orica has completed installation of the new scrubbers. Lindy Nisbett will attend the launch event in lieu of Keith. Air quality will continue to be monitored.
* An EPA community consultation group has been re-established. Keith will continue to liaise with representatives on issues impacting the local area.

**5.4 Community and Crown Land**

* SCG Inc are following up with newly elected Ward 1 councillors re funding previously announced to upgrade public toilet at the ferry in 2025.
* Letter has been sent to Tim Crakanthorp re ferry scheduling, service disruptions and safety concerns at Queens Wharf. Community members are encouraged to raise any concerns with Newcastle Transport <https://www.newcastletransport.info/> , Tim Crakanthorp <https://www.timcrakanthorp.com/> , or Police if an urgent safety issue.

**6.0 Correspondence:** list available upon request

**7. General business/Business without notice**

**7.1 Coastal Inundation and Storm Surge Risk**: Willow Forsyth discussed the lack of emergency response plan, early warning system and surge information cards in the event of inundation. Of particular concern are pinch points such as the caravan park. Willow has met with CON Staff. Council are seeking grant funding to undertake a detailed plan however it would likely take over 2 years to develop.

**7.2 Quad bike damage**: Tina Boyd raised the issue of damage to fencing and vegetation by quad bike riders at the northern end of the beach. Similar damage to fencing is being witnessed at the new vertical sea wall installation. Members feel the problem is being generated by the loss of structured beach access points. Members have raised these concerns and the need for improved access with Council and Hunter Water.

**7.3 SCG Inc Annual General Meeting** will be held 13th November 2024

Nominations for SCG Inc Executive Committee are now open via email to: stocktoncomgroup@gmail.com

8. **Meeting closed:** 8:45 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 13th November, Stockton Surf Life Saving Club at 7:30 pm

* AGM and End of Year celebration (Surf Club bar will be open)