

## Stockton Special Advisory Panel

Held on: 1/04/2025 – 10:30am to 12:00pm

At: Level 1, The Store, 6 Stewart Avenue Newcastle West

Chaired by: The Hon Tim Crakanthorp MP, Member for Newcastle

### Attended

No.	Name	Position	Agency/Organisation	RSVPs
1	Tim Crakanthorp (Chair)	Member for Newcastle		
2	Joe Thompson	Director, Hunter Central Coast (HCC)	NSW DCCEEW – Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation	
3	Neil Kelleher	Senior Team Leader, Water Floodplains & Coast (HCC)	NSW DCCEEW – Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation	
4	Ally Suzzi (Secretariat)	Assistant Project Officer, Water Floodplains & Coast (HCC)	NSW DCCEEW – Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation	
5	Ainslie Downes (Observer)	Senior Water Floodplain and Coast Officer, Water Floodplains & Coast (HCC)	NSW DCCEEW – Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation	
6	Sarah Wylie	Director, Hunter New England	NSW Public Works	
7	Michelle Bisson	Executive Director, Planning and Environment	City of Newcastle	
8	Marnie Kikken	Executive Manager, Environment & Sustainability	City of Newcastle	
9	Phillipa Hill	Environmental Strategy Manager	City of Newcastle	
10	Ron Boyd		Community Representative	

No.	Name	Position	Agency/Organisation	RSVPs
11	Barbara Whitcher		Community Representative	
12	Willow Forsyth		Community Representative	

## Apologies

- Lennie Anderson, Director NUR-RUN-GEE Pty Ltd – Worimi Registered Aboriginal Party
- Glen Hayward, Executive Manager Marine and Operations – Port of Newcastle
- Ross Kerridge, Lord Mayor – City of Newcastle

## Agenda item discussion and actions

Time	Item	Minutes	Actions
10:15 (5 mins)	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	The Chair welcomed members and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.  Apologies were received and members without apologies were noted.  The Chair proposed 3 Panel meetings to be held throughout 2025.	Nil
10:20 (5 mins)	Introductions  Conflicts of interest	No conflicts of interest declared.	Nil

Time	Item	Minutes	Actions
10:25 (10 mins)	Stockton Special Advisory Panel Terms of Reference	<p>Terms of Reference (TOR) were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community members raise amending TOR to allow alternate nominated community members to deputise in the absence of primary representatives.</li> <li>City of Newcastle raised amending TOR to include long-term ongoing management of the beach, referencing text from the Stockton Beach Taskforce TOR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community members to provide a list of three alternative community representatives for the Panel.</li> <li>TOR to be amended to allow alternate community members to deputise in the absence of primary representatives.</li> <li>TOR to be amended to include long-term ongoing management of Stockton Beach.</li> </ul>

Time	Item	Minutes	Actions
10:35 (10 mins)	Update on Beneficial Reuse of Port Dredging	<p>Joe Thompson provided an update on behalf of NSW DCCEEW, which included the below key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW DCCEEW are seeking a proposal from Hunter Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC) to fully investigate the process to enable dredge spoil from the port to be used for nourishment of Stockton Beach. This is a complex issue due to licencing pathways and identifying a responsible agency or organisation to hold the licence.</li> <li>Current investigations required to enable a public authority to hold the licence. Work expected to be completed by the end of 2025. Potential state agencies will be approached with a proposal to hold the licence once approval pathways have been determined.</li> <li>Dredge material is not always suitable for nourishment of the beach due to silt content; this also requires further investigation.</li> </ul> <p>The following points were raised during group discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW Public Works held the licence for the dredging campaign for the CERMP project, but it is not their role within Government to hold the licence into the future.</li> <li>Council's position is that it is not their responsibility to hold the licence, and this is the State Government's responsibility.</li> </ul>	Nil

Time	Item	Minutes	Actions
10:45 (10 mins)	NSW DCCEEW Update on the Stockton CERMP & election commitment project	<p>Joe Thompson provided a presentation on behalf of NSW DCCEEW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW DCCEEW recently made an amendment to ownership and extension of the Stockton Offshore Exploration Licence.</li> <li>Marine Mammal Observer training provided to NSW DCCEEW staff and six Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council green team in early 2025.</li> <li>Offshore vibrocoring work completed week commencing 24 March 2025. Offshore underwater towed video yet to be completed, co-designed with Worimi to identify potential Aboriginal cultural heritage items. Offshore fieldwork to be completed prior to whale migration and white shark aggregation period (14 April 2025).</li> <li>Stockton Beach Repair Webpage is live with last update on 21 February 2025. Updates will be posted at least quarterly. Monitoring data will be made available via the website.</li> </ul> <p>The following points were raised during group discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community members asked if monitoring data will be used to prepare an updated sediment budget. NSW DCCEEW are not currently proposing to do an updated sediment budget but there may be scope in the election commitment budget to prepare updated modelling done using data collected throughout the project.</li> </ul>	Attachment 1

Time	Item	Minutes	Actions
10:55 (10 mins)	NSW Public Works & Stockton CERMP update	<p>Sarah Wylie provided a presentation on behalf of NSW Public Works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah provided an update on the status of the Stockton CERMP project Parts B and C.</li> <li>• Key focus is feasibility studies on the North Arm and Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for North Arm and Offshore. Tenders for REF to be called late April.</li> <li>• The draft REF will inform the licencing aspects of the CERMP work.</li> <li>• The remaining CERMP work will be completed within the next 9 months.</li> </ul>	Nil

<p>11:05 (10 mins)</p>	<p>City of Newcastle &amp; Extended Stockton CMP update</p>	<p>Phillipa Hill provided a presentation on behalf of City of Newcastle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Draft Extended Stockton CMP has been prepared to replace the Stockton CMP 2020 and is currently on public exhibition until 14 April 2025.</li> <li>• The draft CMP expands the spatial scope of the Stockton CMP 2020 and investigates complementary actions to prolong the benefit of mass sand nourishment and urgent protection works that Council will deliver prior to mass sand nourishment.</li> <li>• CN responsibilities under the draft Extended Stockton CMP include coastal protection structures, Holiday Park Master Plan, sand scraping, dune protection and community access (public domain planning).</li> <li>• CMP aims to enable accepting suitable sand from a range of sources opportunistically to nourish Stockton Beach.</li> <li>• Projected costs of the draft CMP in its current form are \$62.9M total, with \$21.4M allocated to Council and \$40M to NSW Government.</li> <li>• Council feels it is crucial for the CMP to be certified in 2025 to enable eligibility for grant funding and streamlined pathways for construction of new coastal protection structures.</li> <li>• Council calling for NSW Govt commitment for 7 outstanding management actions, updated cost estimates for supply of 2.4M cubic metres of sand and reinstatement of planning approvals enabling Port of</li> </ul>	<p>Nil</p>
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Time	Item	Minutes	Actions
		Newcastle to place sand from maintenance dredging on Stockton Beach.	
11:15 (15 mins)	Community Questions	<p>Key points raised during community discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing commitment to maintenance sand top ups is a key issue for community.</li> <li>NSW DCCEEW are currently preparing a response to City of Newcastle on the draft Extended Stockton CMP. Ongoing management requirements are unknown in terms of costs, volumes, etc. At this stage there is reluctance from the NSW Government to take on responsibility for these largely unknown actions.</li> <li>Community requesting that mass sand nourishment is delivered prior to the end of 2026. A confirmed budget is required before NSW DCCEEW can go to market for a dredge. Budget announcements will be made in June 2025.</li> <li>Community requesting updated analysis into the volume of sand required for mass sand nourishment. NSW DCCEEW have done this as part of the preparation for the 2025-2026 Stockton Beach Repair Business Case. This information is currently confidential as it is part of the budget process.</li> </ul>	Nil
11:30 (5 mins)	General business	Next meeting to be held end of July (date TBD).	Nil



## Action Register

No.	Action	Responsibility
APR01	Community representatives to provide a list of three alternative community representatives for the Panel.	Ron Boyd, Barbara Whitcher, Willow Forsyth
APR02	TOR to be amended to allow alternate community members to deputise in the absence of primary representatives.	
APR03	TOR to be amended to include long-term ongoing management of Stockton Beach.	