

Stockton Works Update

March 2023



City of
Newcastle

Delivery of Actions from the 2020 CMP

Sand

Sourcing Sand

The urgency of addressing erosion at Stockton Beach along NSW Government owned Crown Land cannot be understated. City of Newcastle (CN) welcomes the recent announcement by the Deputy Premier Paul Toole, that NSW Public Works will be tasked with project managing key activities to enable sand nourishment for Stockton Beach and planning meetings with NSW Public Works are underway to ensure momentum is maintained with this important work.

Receiving Sand

To accommodate the receipt of both amenity and mass sand nourishment volumes, CN has progressed the design work for sand placement, finalised the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and submitted the necessary licence and permit applications. The REF calls for the development of an overarching Project Environmental Management Plan, as well as a number of specific management sub-plans, to ensure beach nourishment works are carried out in accordance with the safeguards and management measures identified in the REF. This plan will also outline baseline, construction and post construction monitoring requirements. This baseline monitoring is anticipated to be finalised in the first half of 2023.

Sand placement plans have been prepared based on the most recent sand movement study, to ensure sand is placed in the most effective locations. This includes smaller volumes of sand other than mass sand nourishment, such as sand sourced from the Port of Newcastle's maintenance dredging activities.

Structures

Status of Seawall Upgrades

Repair works to the King Street breakwater are well underway, including repairs caused by damage from erosion events, as well as the construction of a new accessway to South Stockton Beach. Once the repairs are complete, access will be reinstated for the community, including recreational users and fisher folk to South Stockton Beach, and for CN and the Port of Newcastle for necessary operations.

We aim to maintain pedestrian access to the breakwater during our works, however there may be periods of time where we need to temporarily restrict access to allow construction activities to be undertaken safely. Please follow the directions of our crews and safety signage at these times.

Buried Protection Structures

We plan to commence construction of the first buried protection structure at the southern end of the Mitchell Street seawall in the coming months. We welcome \$2.3 million in funding from the NSW Government's 2021-22 Coastal and Estuary Grants Program which will help fund the cost of construction.

The new structure is a buried seawall constructed with vertical, overlapping concrete beams. When completed, the top of the wall will be buried as shown on the following page.

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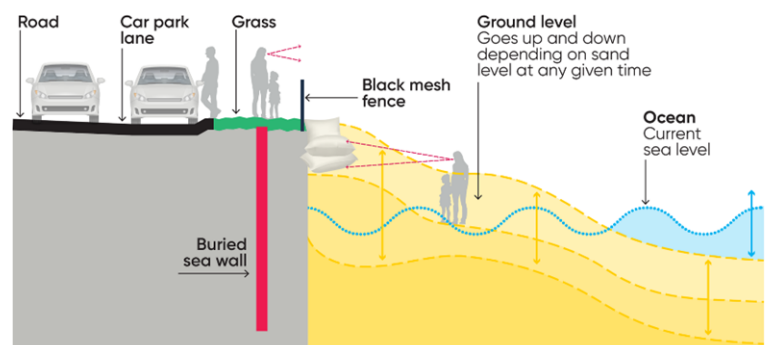
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We are also working on the design of additional buried protection structures, including one in front of Lexie's Café. Consultation will commence with the community later in 2023. CN will continue to work with Stockton Aboriginal cultural heritage groups to ensure that our works respect the significance of the Stockton coastline and protect cultural heritage.

Further information about these projects is on our website www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/stockton-works



Artist impression of the new buried seawall, southern end of the Mitchell Street seawall.

Coastal Repair Work

Work was completed last year to repair existing emergency structures along the Dalby Oval frontage, including an area south of the Mitchell Street seawall, 'The Pines' area and accessway, and an area north of the Stockton SLSC seawall. The structures were repaired using geofabric, sand and rock bags, as well as new fencing installations. The accessway from Dalby Oval to Stockton Beach was also rebuilt to provide safe passage for all beach users. The woody debris gathered on Little Beach from recent flooding of the Hunter River has been removed as a safety measure. Further removal will be completed along the Stockton beachfront in coming weeks. Beach sand scraping, to relocate sand from the lower beach profile onto the base of the dunes, is programmed for February/March as suitable conditions for sand availability and low tide/low swell events occur. Deliberate vandalism of rock bag protection structures and exclusion fencing continues to be an issue at Dalby Oval and Stone Street / Barrie Crescent. We encourage everyone visiting the areas to please report any inappropriate behaviour and/or damage, so that structures to improve safety/amenity for our Stockton community are maintained. The latest information regarding emergency works and beach accessways can be found at www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/stockton-works

Extended Stockton CMP Development

Last month we issued draft management actions relating to the Extended CMP to agency stakeholders, the Stockton Community Liaison Group (SCLG) and Worimi representatives. We have now received their feedback, which we will discuss and confirm at the next SCLG Meeting on 2 March. Feedback will then be considered in the final set of management actions included in the CMP, which we hope to have on public exhibition in mid-2023. Given that Stockton's erosion is primarily caused by the NSW Government's breakwater and deep-water navigation channel of the Port of Newcastle, the draft implementation actions relating to sand nourishment have been submitted to the Deputy Premier's Stockton Beach Taskforce, asking for the ownership and funding of these actions to be allocated within the NSW Government. We are awaiting a response.

All works are weather permitting. For more information or to join our mailing list for future updates visit

www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/stockton-works