

Progress on delivering sand for Stockton

The NSW Government and City of Newcastle are working to restore sand to Stockton Beach and revitalise this much-loved stretch of coastline for the Stockton community.



Progress snapshot

- The initial sand renourishment was completed in November 2023 delivering 130,000 cubic metres of dredged sand to Stockton Beach.
- Three-month post-sand placement monitoring has been completed.
- Feasibility studies into potential future sand sources for further replenishment of Stockton Beach are now underway.
- The work completed to date has met several milestones against phase 1 and 2 of the [Stockton Beach Repair Blueprint](#), released by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) in December 2023.

Stockton Beach Taskforce News

The Hon. Yasmin Catley, MP, in her capacity as Minister for the Hunter, has assumed the role of Chair of the Stockton Beach Taskforce.

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The NSW Government has a four-point plan to progress outcomes for Stockton Beach.

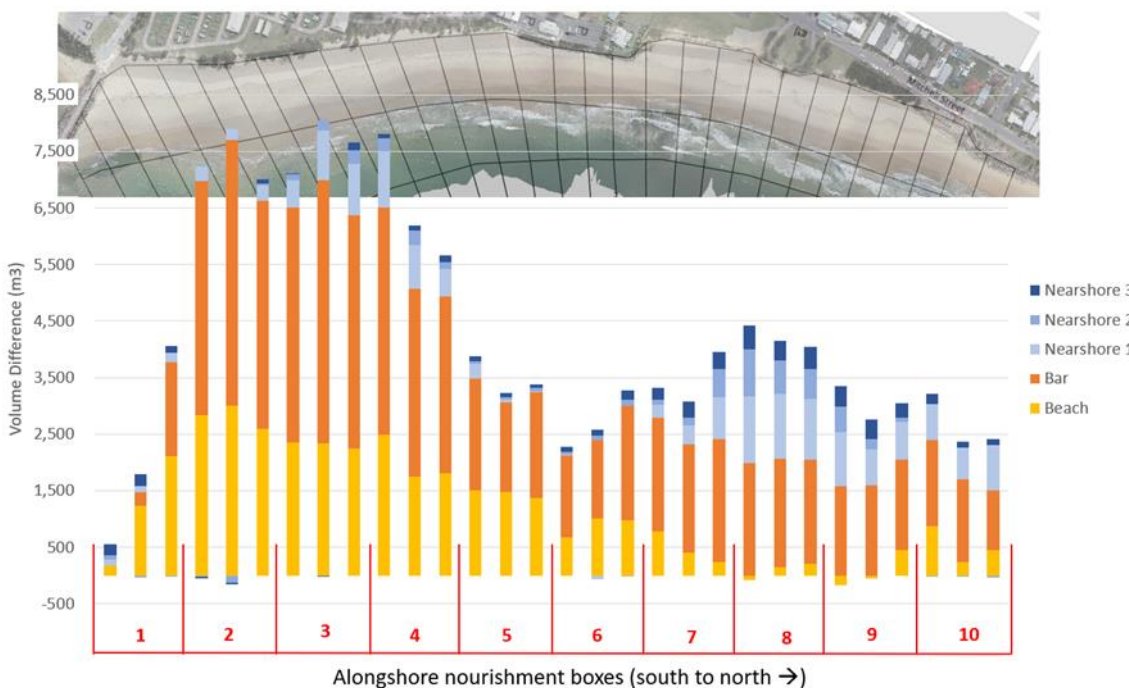
Point 1: NSW Public Works to lead restoration works and oversee expenditure of the \$6.2 million of funding provided under the Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program (CERMP).

Approximately 130,000 cubic metres of sand was delivered through Part A of the \$6.2 million CERMP grant to remediate Stockton Beach. Sand was placed in the surf zone at the southern end of the beach, with the dredging concluding on 4 November 2023.

The completion of this initial phase of beach renourishment has improved beach amenity and will improve resilience from storm damage.

Since the delivery of the initial amenity sand renourishment to Stockton Beach, the required three-month post-sand placement monitoring and testing has been undertaken. The monitoring undertaken includes sampling of sediments pre and post placement, coastal and sand placement surveys and water quality and plume monitoring during the placement works.

The sand distribution on the shoreline aligns with the reported volumes dredged. The monitoring results have been within the required limits and will be used to inform future nourishment campaigns and refine the nourishment strategy.



The graphic shows the distribution of sand added along Stockton Beach as of November 2023, as well as where it was distributed on the beach (beach, bar, nearshore or in slightly deeper water).

Image credit: Bluescope

Parts B and C of the CERMP grant fund detailed feasibility and viability investigations into potential sand sources within the north arm of the Hunter River and offshore marine areas. A feasibility analysis and desktop review of the offshore borrow area has been completed in readiness to progress environmental approvals and further site analysis, while the feasibility analysis and desktop review of the north arm borrow area of the Hunter River is underway.

Point 2: The *Department of Regional NSW* will work with the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to develop a blueprint for the long-term management of Stockton Beach.

Having completed several key milestones, the Stockton Beach repair project has now transitioned to a new phase of longer-term mass sand nourishment at Stockton Beach.

The NSW Government has committed \$21 million to repair Stockton Beach through the delivery of mass sand nourishment, the community's preferred

long-term coastal management strategy as outlined in City of Newcastle's Stockton Coastal Management Program 2020.

The Stockton Beach Repair Blueprint, released on 19 December 2023, describes the NSW Government's program of beach nourishment initiatives that will improve the usability of Stockton Beach and reduce risks from coastal hazards into the future.

The roadmap outlined in the Blueprint brings together the many project stakeholders and beach nourishment initiatives necessary for the repair and maintenance of Stockton Beach repair encompassed in five phases of work over 5-10 years.

Work already undertaken and currently underway aligns with phases 1 and 2 outlined in the Blueprint. The Blueprint can be found on the [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's website](#).

Point 3: The *Department of Regional NSW* will host regular community information sessions to ensure community input into decisions made by the Taskforce.

The next community information session will be scheduled in alignment with the progress of the Stockton Beach Repair Blueprint and the remaining work under the CERMP.

Point 4: Quarterly progress reports, issued jointly by the NSW Government and City of Newcastle to be made publicly available, beginning September 2023.

This document is the third quarterly progress report. Previous editions are available at

newcastle.nsw.gov.au/stockton

Next steps

Next steps include

- Finalise investigations and associated environmental approvals for sourcing sand from the north arm of the Hunter River and offshore borrow areas.