



Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Stockton need a Coastal Management Program (CMP)?



The NSW Government has created a formalised process for coastal management, with coastal councils like City of Newcastle required to complete a Coastal Management Program (CMP) by December 2021.

City of Newcastle is progressing a Stockton CMP in line with a direction from the Local Government Minister to a shortened timeframe of 30 June 2020. This direction was delivered to the City on 17 February 2020.

The Stockton CMP will take an evidence-based approach to address the historic and ongoing erosion issues at Stockton which have been the subject of multiple investigations and attempted solutions over time.

Why do coastal studies take so long to complete?



The coast is a constantly changing environment. If we want to make good decisions, then we need them to be evidence-based. Using the most current data enables us to reach these resolutions with confidence for the future.

The Stockton CMP has now brought forward the most current, accurate and relevant data to be analysed for effective management decisions.

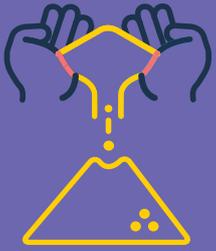
For instance, one of our latest studies has told us the amount of sand that leaves Stockton annually, which is invaluable information in designing how we can protect Stockton with mass sand nourishment.

In addition, to make decisions for tomorrow we need to understand what will be at risk in the future. These investigations are outlined in the supporting document, C-Sediment Transport Study and Probabilistic Hazard Assessment Summary, available within the Stockton CMP.



City of
Newcastle

Why can't we just put any sand on Stockton beach?



Not all sand is suitable for Stockton Beach. For example, harbour-dredged material is loaded with mud as well as coarser rocks and some sand, washed down from the Hunter River catchment. This is unsuitable for beach nourishment. The Stockton CMP contains a review of a range of marine and terrestrial (land) sand sources. The Sand Management Guideline developed alongside the Stockton CMP will enable appropriate sand to be utilised as it becomes available, such as from major projects requiring dredging.

What is the Deputy Premier's Erosion Taskforce?



In March 2020, the NSW Deputy Premier announced the formation of a Taskforce of Government Agencies, City of Newcastle and community representatives,

to work together to address Stockton's erosion issues and to consider funding options for long-term solutions. Further, the Taskforce will explore options for sand nourishment, including from marine sources, as well as provide solutions to streamline NSW.

What's the difference between the Stockton CMP and Newcastle CMP?



All coastal councils in NSW are required to prepare a Coastal Management Program in line with the Coastal Management Act 2016 by December 2021.

The Newcastle CMP encompasses the entire Local Government Area (LGA) from Glenrock State Conservation Area in the south to the northern boundary of the Stockton Cemetery.

On 17 February 2020, following numerous severe erosion events at Stockton, the NSW Government, directed City of Newcastle to prepare a specific CMP for Stockton which is on public exhibition from 13 May to 10 June 2020. This is in line with the revised 30 June 2020 deadline from the Minister for the completion of the Stockton CMP.

To meet this new deadline, City of Newcastle is delivering a Stockton CMP which includes the area from the northern harbour breakwall and Meredith Street. The Stockton CMP will be revised and replaced by the wider Newcastle CMP before December 2021. The Newcastle CMP covers the whole LGA coastline including the area north of Meredith Street and the harbour estuary. See Figure 1 Stockton CMP area map.

What will happen first when the plan is approved?



City of Newcastle plans to provide an initial 50,000 cubic metres of sand nourishment from local land (or other permissible) sources to provide targeted beach amenity and access. This will be done in conjunction with

minimal, emergency extension works at either end, of each of the two existing seawalls (Mitchell Street and the SLSC,) to replace the temporary sandbags and protect critical assets, and services from immediate risk. There will also be a range of currently programmed maintenance undertaken including rock maintenance works on our existing seawalls and dune and accessway repairs.

City of Newcastle is committed to working with the Deputy Premier's Taskforce and the NSW Government to explore all opportunities to source sand for mass beach nourishment that is affordable and suitable, with the goal to protect and preserve Stockton Beach.

Indicative Management Strategy



Legend

- Hazard Line 2025 (ZSA @5% AEP*)
- Existing Sea Wall
- Proposed Buried Sea Wall Extension

Sand Nourishment

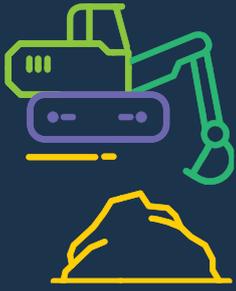
- Mass - Marine Offshore Source
- Terrestrial - Land (or other permissible) Source



DISCLAIMER: City of Newcastle makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of any information contained in them. City of Newcastle accepts no responsibility for any misprints, errors, omissions or inaccuracies in these documents/maps or for loss or damages resulting from reliance on any information provided.

*Zone of Slope Adjustment. See Section 6.1 of Stockton CMP.

What is the long-term plan for Stockton?



It is the intent of the Stockton CMP to establish a pathway for the delivery of mass sand nourishment from marine offshore sources as a protection strategy that also enhances beach amenity and access. While not currently permissible,

it is recognised as the most economically feasible and publicly acceptable solution. City of Newcastle will continue working with the Deputy Premier's Taskforce to progress mass sand nourishment from marine sources, in addition to undertaking initiatives to streamline the processes to enable the delivery of opportunistic sand to Stockton.

What happens if there are more major erosion events before mass sand nourishment is achieved?



City of Newcastle will monitor any further erosion or shoreline recession at Stockton and take emergency / preventative measures where necessary, such as sandbagging works. Emergency response actions are outlined in the erosion plan contained in the Stockton CMP.

The Stockton CMP studies have identified hazard lines along the coast, and if erosion were to reach these thresholds it would trigger a review of the implementation of stage 2 works and risk exposure, against a range of criteria to prevent damage to coastal properties and assets.

Under current projections it is not expected for this threshold to be reached within the five-year Stockton CMP planning timeframe, during which time it is expected a pathway for mass nourishment would have been achieved.

How can I learn more and have my say?

Visit

www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay

to download the full Stockton CMP and have your opportunity to provide feedback on the plan between **13 May to 10 June 2020.**

If you would like a printed copy of the Stockton CMP, contact 4974 2000 between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

