



Reference: 013-2025-JM

Wednesday, 28 May 2025

The Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC  
Minister for the Environment  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By online contact form

**Re: Stockton Beach Repair Project**

Dear Minister Sharpe,

I write to you on behalf of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) regarding the Stockton Beach Repair Project.

As you are aware, the SCCG is a regional organisation of councils (ROC) established in 1989 to promote collaboration among member councils on the sustainable management of the urban coastal and estuarine environments in the Sydney Region. The group comprises nine councils which together represents nearly 1.3 million Sydney-siders. In line with Strategic Goal 1 of our [2019-2029 Strategic Plan](#), the SCCG aims to increase the resilience of the region to natural coastal hazards and climate change. We do this in several ways including convening a Sand Management Working Group for our members.

**Relevance of the Stockton Beach Repair Project to SCCG Members**

The work being undertaken to restore Stockton Beach is an important project of relevance to the SCCG, especially for our councils facing the ongoing management challenges of coastal erosion and beach nourishment.

As we understood, the project is intended to provide guidance to councils on beach nourishment and underpins the actions in the previous Government's Future Directions Statement for the NSW Coastal and Estuary Management Program, identified for delivery in 2022. Relevant actions are:

- Collaborate with relevant agencies to provide guidance on the use of offshore sand deposits for the purposes of beach nourishment
- Collaborate with relevant agencies to examine beach nourishment sources and viability.

**Update on Stockton Beach Repair Project**

We note on the project web page at [Stockton Beach Repair Project | Coasts | Environment and Heritage](#), progress of the 5 key phases of the project as follows:

Phase 1 - in progress

*Complete the initial beach nourishment activity and identify preferred nourishment sand sources and delivery methods.*

Phase 2 – not started

*Complete the environmental assessments, obtain approvals, licences and permits and finalise the design and tender documents to access nourishment sand.*

The SCCG is keenly awaiting commencement and outcomes of Phase 2. We sought an update on progress through an inquiry to the project page contact email on 25 March 2025, but a response is yet to be received.

We would appreciate a response from you on progress of the Stockton Beach Repair Project, especially the expected timing for commencement of Phase 2 regarding completion of the environmental assessment and approvals, licenses and permits. The SCCG would also appreciate an update on the status of the previous commitments identified in the Future Directions Statement, particularly on the proposed guidance on the use of offshore sand deposits for the purposes of beach nourishment.

### **Relationship of Stockton Beach Repair and Large-scale Beach Nourishment Feasibility Assessment**

I would also draw your attention to the Large-scale Beach Nourishment Feasibility Assessment, currently underway and being led by the NSW Reconstruction Authority. The SCCG has reached out separately to the Authority about our concerns over the limited engagement of councils in this project so far (linked [here](#)). It is also unclear how the beach nourishment feasibility assessment relates to the Stockton project, as well as the relationship of the intended guidance on beach nourishment planning approvals proposed to be delivered under both projects. We would greatly appreciate an explanation of how the two projects interact and details of the respective outcomes.

I look forward to your response on these important matters at your earliest possible convenience. If you have any queries, please contact me by email at [sarah@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au](mailto:sarah@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au)

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Penny Joyce  
**Executive Director**