



John Barilaro
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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIES POSSIBLE SOLUTION FOR STOCKTON EROSION

The NSW Government has identified a potential solution to the severe coastal erosion issues plaguing the Newcastle suburb of Stockton, with a new report from the Geological Survey of NSW indicating sand in the Stockton Bight may be suitable for beach renourishment.

Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Resources John Barilaro said a review of existing data he commissioned in late March shows the inner continental shelf in Stockton Bight contains the largest potential offshore sand resource in the local area.

“I’ve long said offshore dredging is the only viable long-term solution for Stockton Beach and I’m very pleased to say this report confirms we have the right sand and we are one step closer to making it happen,” Mr Barilaro said.

“I made a promise to the people of Stockton that we would set politics aside and put community at the heart of what we’re trying to achieve, and this is just the beginning of what’s possible if we all work together to get the best outcome.”

While further investigation is needed to assess the composition, grain size and extent of the sand resource, the geological findings will help City of Newcastle Council and the local community address the erosion issues at Stockton Beach.

Stockton Bight is the coastal area stretching 32 kilometres northwards from the Stockton breakwall at the entrance to the Hunter River to Morna Point, east of Anna Bay.

Historical data reviewed by the Geological Survey of NSW showed the medium grained sands of the Newcastle inner shelf sand sheet in Stockton Bight represented the largest potential resource.

However, the quality, thickness and continuity of that sand sheet is unclear and further investigation is required to confirm its suitability for beach nourishment.

Mr Barilaro also unveiled the terms of reference for the Deputy Premier’s Stockton Beach Taskforce, which will bring together Government agencies, community leaders and other local representatives to help deliver long-term solutions for the beach erosion problems.

The Taskforce will be chaired by the Deputy Premier and will hold its first meeting next month.

To read the report visit www.resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/stocktonreview