



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Hearing: Thursday 31 October 2019

Answers due by: Tuesday 26 November 2019

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

Stockton

1. I refer to the Minister's comments that she wants a long term solution for erosion at Stockton by the end of the year, where is the Government up to on finding a long term solutions for erosion at Stockton?
 - (a) Is the Minister confident a solution will be identified by the end of year?
 - (b) Is the Minister confident that Newcastle Council's Coastal Management Program for Stockton will be completed by the end of the year?

Answer:

The NSW Government is committed to effectively managing our coastline; and we are focussed on working with the City of Newcastle Council to develop long term solutions to manage the region's coastline.

The Government is continuing to provide assistance to Council to complete their Coastal Management Program as quickly as possible.

2. Is the Minister aware that offshore sand dredging for beach nourishment purposes at Stockton has been identified as a potential solution to the erosion at Stockton beach?

Answer:

Yes. I recognise that offshore sand dredging is one of the potential options that could be used to support the renourishment of Stockton Beach. I understand a wide range of potential management options for Stockton Beach is being considered by City of Newcastle Council during the development of their Coastal Management Program.

3. Is the Minister aware that offshore sand dredging for beach nourishment purposes has worked successfully in Queensland?

Answer:

Yes. I am aware of beach nourishment projects undertaken in Queensland and other jurisdictions.

4. What is the process for gaining approval for offshore sand dredging for beach nourishment purposes in New South Wales?

Answer:

The approvals process for sand mining within NSW coastal waters is a matter that should be referred to the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade.

5. Will you consider lobbying the NSW Deputy Premier to call for offshore sand dredging for beach nourishment purposes at Stockton?

Answer:

I understand the NSW Deputy Premier, John Barilaro MP, has asked agencies to investigate various options – one of which is sand dredging to support beach replenishment efforts at Stockton.

6. Since 2011, how much has the Government spent addressing coastal erosion at Collaroy?
(a) Please provide a breakdown of all works that have been funded.

Answer:

Government funded projects for coastal erosion can be found on the Government's website <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/coasts/coastal-and-estuary-grants/grants-awarded>

7. Since 2011 how much has the Government spent addressing coastal erosion at Stockton?
(a) Please provide a breakdown of all works that have been funded.

Answer:

Please refer to the answer provided for question number 6 (above).

8. With regard to recent reports that significant dredging would be required as part of the Newcastle Gas Terminal and that this sand could be used at Stockton Beach to address erosion:
- (a) Will the Minister ensure this is considered as part of the State Significant Development process?
 - (b) Would the sand from this dredging be of a suitable quality to use at Stockton Beach?

Answer:

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

The suitability of the dredge spoil would need to be confirmed prior to use for beach nourishment.

9. Has Newcastle Council applied for funding to expedite the preparation of its Coastal Management Program?
- (a) If so, what was the result of this application?

Answer:

Following my visit to Stockton on 30 September 2019, I declared the beach a Significant Open Coast Location, which allows Council to apply for funding to implement actions in their Coastal Zone Management Plan at any time.