

## **Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) Independent Science Panel (ISP)**

### **Chair's report from ISP meeting #3 held on 18 June 2013**

The GHHP ISP held its third meeting in Gladstone on the 18 June 2013. Thank you to Central Queensland University (CQU) for hosting the meeting.

The meeting had four objectives.

1. Discuss the Independent Science Panel (ISP) budget and work plan for the next three years
2. Discuss what information is required by the ISP to enable it to make a report card recommendation to the GHHP by December 2013
3. Meet with GREAN GHHP sub-committee members about their role, what they would like from the ISP and received an update on the community component of the GHHP harbour definition process.
4. Discuss the status of ISP projects including progressing the social perception survey scope of works.

The ISP noted the Queensland has committed \$1.0m to help establish the GHHP and \$1.5m annually (recurrent funding) initially for the next two years, predicated on matching funds from the other GHHP partners. It also noted the ISP's work program was endorsed at the GHHP's 1 May 2013 meeting and the Chairs of PCIMP, ERMP, GHHP ISP and the DTRP met for the first of their monthly meetings on 11 June 2013.

The ISP discussed its budget which has been submitted to the GHHP Funding and Governance Working Group and is based on the GHHP endorsed ISP work program. Additions to the work program and budget since it was last discussed by ISP were the survey of community perceptions relating to Gladstone Harbour in 2013 and the external international evaluation after the pilot report card is released in 2014.

The ISP progressed the scope of works for the survey of community perceptions relating to Gladstone Harbour. Issues discussed included: understanding our information needs from the survey; available baseline information; candidate social indicators; timing of the survey; and, the need to work with GREAN in developing the project. The ISP discussed and supported the approach taken in GBR wide surveys with a focus on "healthy reef, healthy communities". This provides a means to conceptualise what a healthy community is in relation to a healthy harbour, and can be broken down into social wellbeing, human health, economic productivity, and ecosystem health. The scope of works for the survey of community perceptions relating to Gladstone Harbour will be progressed inter-sessionally.

Gladstone Region Environmental Advisory Network (GREAN) representatives joined the ISP for lunch. We had a useful discussion about the roles of ISP and GREAN, and how best the two groups can work together as part of the GHHP. We also discussed the ISP survey of community perceptions relating to Gladstone Harbour and GREAN's oral history project. GREAN members asked about the geographic scope of the project; what is meant by economic and social aspects of a healthy harbour; ongoing concerns of Gladstone residents about the health of the harbour; and, the need to understand how a report card will relate to management action in the harbour.

The ISP reaffirmed its key task for 2013 is to recommend to GHHP a report card (including indicators), a monitoring program to inform the report card and any priority research

required. If accepted by the GHHP the report card will be trialed in 2014 and implemented in 2015. The ISP reviewed what information it will require to make a report card recommendation to the GHHP by December 2013. The ISP noted a key input is the definition of a 'healthy harbour' to be provide by the GHHP. After reviewing its work program for 2013 and on the assumption the GHHP will be able to provide its definition in the next month or two the ISP noted that timing will be tight but agreed it should have the bulk of the information required to make a clear recommendation to the GHHP by the end of December 2013.

The ISP was provided with an update on the status of the Mapping and Synthesis project including the structure of the report, approach to synthesising existing knowledge and the final database and visualisation elements. The Project Leader will provide a progress report to the next GHHP meeting and the ISP will receive the final report on 31 July for their review prior to the report being finalized and released in August 2013.

The ISP was also briefed on progress on the call for proposals to undertake the Review of Report Cards and to develop the Gladstone Harbour Conceptual model. Both will be progressed inter-sessionally.

The next meeting of the ISP will be held in Gladstone on the 20 August 2013.

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