

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

### **Chair's report from ISP meeting #6 held on 9 December 2013**

The objectives of the meeting were to provide ISP members with an update on GHHP activities, review the draft ISP Report Card Framework recommendation and to complete the review of the Conceptual modelling project draft report.

The review of the Conceptual Modelling Project was completed and the final report will be publicly available on the GHHP website in early 2014. The report provided key inputs into the development and writing of the GHHP Report Card Framework recommendation.

The major focus of this meeting was discussions around the draft GHHP Report Card Framework recommendation, including obtaining ISP sign off on the proposed indicator groups, and comments on comprehensiveness of the proposed list of related indicators. In particular, the social, cultural and economic indicators were refined. The finalised list of indicators will be developed in the pilot year with the aid of expert opinion and some of the statistical approaches recommended by the ISP following expert statistical advice. The GHHP objectives were also refined and the ISP was satisfied with the progress and content of the report generally. The ISP agreed they will complete a final review in the third week of December before the report is finalised and sent to the GHHP Chair by 31 December 2013 for consideration by the GHHP Management Committee and Partners in early 2014.

The ISP continued its lunchtime discussions with GREAN. The topics for this meeting were fish health issues and seagrass condition in Gladstone Harbour. There were useful discussion around the incidence of and biological explanation for the development of rust spot disease in mud crabs, and the available research and evidence on this in relation to Gladstone Harbour and elsewhere throughout Queensland. Seagrass discussions focused on seagrass condition across Queensland and why there appear to be conflicting reports. Many differences can be explained by seasonality, local characteristics and the varying effects of cyclones and floods that lead to different patterns of seagrass occurrence. We also discussed the resilience of the seagrass in Gladstone Harbour and compared its status to elsewhere in Queensland. ISP member Dr Rob offered to present to GREAN about seagrass in Gladstone and more generally.

The next ISP meeting is scheduled for 11 February 2014 in Gladstone.