

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

### **Chair's report from ISP meeting #9 held on 17 June 2014**

The objectives of the meeting were to provide ISP members with an update on GHHP activities; review progress against the GHHP Science Program milestones and budget; progress the data sharing agreements with providers of existing datasets; and review progress on the development of the Fish Health Causality Research project and collaborations with the Fishing Industry Research and Development Corporation (FRDC). The ISP also confirmed the selection of a provider for the pilot project -ISP005 Social, cultural and economic indicators pilot - and the contract will now be progressed by the science team. The Panel approved the ISP review comments on the draft Capricorn Curtis Coast Water Quality Guidelines prepared by the science team in consultation with the ISP. The ISP also finalised the assessment process for new science projects (ISP006, 007, 008 and 009) prior to recommending a provider to the GHHP.

ISP members discussed the GHHP Science Program and noted progress on data sharing agreements with providers of existing datasets as well as the collaboration with FRDC around the Fish Health Causality Research Project. The CSIRO lead proposal was ratified as the provider for pilot project ISP005 Social, cultural and economic indicators.

ISP members commenced discussions around the nature and form of technical documents required to support the report card. The Panel agreed on the need for several reports with each having a clear message. These will include a detailed methods document that will give the reader confidence about the report card design. It will describe at least the choice of methodology, justification for the choice of indicators and program design. A second report would explain how to interpret the report card data each year, and provide ISP sign off on the data received. ISP sign off would be the key message behind this document. At least another technical report is required to outline how to use the report card results (and how not to use them). At our next meeting the Panel will continue these discussions prior to a recommendation to the GHHP MC.

Noting the GHHP will move from the piloting to the operational phase of its development in 2015 the ISP members discussed the nature of the panel's future operations including panel size, composition, responsibilities and regularity of meetings. The Panel concluded that the status quo should be continued until at least the end of 2015 when the first report card will be released with any changes to the ISP finalised by June 2016. Over the next six months the ISP will continue discussions about future needs prior to making a recommendation to the GHHP Management Committee in early 2015.

The ISP reviewed the draft GHHP Stewardship Working Group scope of works and cautioned about the speed at which the GHHP MC was progressing towards developing measures of stewardship and other aspects of the report card program, and recommended careful consideration of the sequence projects should be conducted in in order to meet the GHHP's goals. At the next Stewardship Working Group meeting the ISP representative will report on our discussions and will offer to provide advice to them based on prior experience in the development of other report card programs.

ISP members enjoyed the opportunity to meet Ms. Lyndal Hansen and Ms. Crystal MacGregor from the GHHP Communications and Media team and had a very valuable discussion around the lessons from other report carding programs. GREAN members joined the ISP for lunch and we had mutually useful discussions around the lessons gained from other report card programs and the key recommendations in the GHHP's review of report cards and their relevance to the GHHP report card.

The ISP acknowledged the significant amount of work the science team had completed since our last meeting, thanked them for their dedication and noted the ongoing high quality of their work.

The next ISP meeting is scheduled for the 5 August 2014 in Gladstone.