

Chair Report on ISP Meeting 24

12th September 2017

Membership: Dr Jane Waterhouse was welcomed to the meeting, replacing Dr Britta Schaffelke on the ISP.

Projects

Projects are on track, and most are completed or in the final stages of completion for the year. Additional details are provided in the Science Team report.

	Project ID	Status	Notes
1	Water and Sediment Quality	In progress	PCIMP data has been supplied. As normal there are some minor exclusions, largely because of Limits of Reporting (LOR). Mercury in Sediment will be included this year for the first time.
2	ISP005-2017: SCE indicators	Completed	A parallel internet panel was used as a data collection trial, but low response rates mean the existing telephone survey is better.
3	ISP006: Gladstone Harbour Model	Completed	Final Report now available on the GHHP website
4	ISP006-2017: Gladstone Harbour Model maintenance	In progress	An additional five scenarios to be added in the current year. The ISP recommends that these be aligned with the Draft Master Plan for the Gladstone Harbour
5	ISP007–2017: Connectivity indicators	In progress	No issues
6	ISP009-2017: DIMS maintenance	In progress	No issues
7	ISP011–2017: Seagrass Indicators	Completed	No issues
8	ISP012-2017: Cultural Heritage Indicators	In progress	ISP recommends 2 reviews of methodology to confirm confidence in approach and measures
9	ISP013-2016: Fish Recruitment Indicators	In progress	Results modelled this year by site and grouped up to zone – becoming a more robust measure
10	ISP014–2017: Coral Indicators	Completed	No issues
11	ISP015: Development of Mud Crab Indicators	In progress	Project performed well, and recommend that 3 of the 4 indicators be included in report card.
12	ISP016c: Fish Health Case Study	In Progress	Tender issued with FRDC, and proposals being assessed
13	ISP018: Development of Mangrove Indicators	In development	No further data has become available
14	ISP019: Coral coring	In progress	Final report due in December
15	ISP020-2017: Scripts for cultural heritage indicators	In development	In progress, not a large task because of limited change from previous year
16	Stewardship 2017	In progress	Larger review being conducted for Qld Govt

Reporting the Environmental Indicator:

The ISP noted the previous decision and endorsement from the Management Committee that an overall Environmental Score would not be reported at the Zone level, but instead be reported at the indicator group level (Water & Sediment quality, Habitats, Fish & Crabs).

The ISP also noted that the Management Committee had endorsed that the same approach be taken for the overall reporting of the Environmental indicator at the whole-of-harbour level, noting that the ISP did not have a clear preference at this aggregated level.

For the 2016-17 Report Card, the ISP recommends that:

- **The emphasis of the Environmental reporting should be on the Sub-component level**
- **An overall Environmental Score at the whole-of-harbour still be available in the report card**
- **The figure be amended to emphasise the sub-components as well as the overall score**

The recommendation to include some information about the overall score was based on the following points:

- It provides more consistency with previous report cards
- It will meet community expectations for an overall environmental assessment
- The key problems are at the zone level, not at the whole-of-harbour level
- The summary is becoming more robust as the indicators are better developed

Names for the Environmental indicator groups

The Management Committee at the previous meeting recommended that the names of the environmental indicator groups be amended to be consistent with the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan, with

Habitats → Ecosystems

Fish and Crabs → Biodiversity

The ISP recommended against this change, noting that:

- The change may be premature, as the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan is still to come into effect, and is currently being reviewed
- The names used in the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan are not very appropriate
 - 'Ecosystems' is not an appropriate term to represent 'Habitats' (Corals, Seagrass and Mangroves), as ecosystems are usually taken to mean a broader system that includes a cross section of living organisms', e.g.
 - An **ecosystem** is a [community](#) of living organisms in conjunction with the [nonliving components](#) of their environment (things like air, water and mineral soil), interacting as a system (Wikipedia)
 - 'Biodiversity' is not an appropriate term to represent Fish and Crabs for two key reasons:
 - Biodiversity is about the variety and variability of all life forms, so can not be simply represented by the health of particular ecosystems

- Currently the report card is limited to only 2 fish species in 'Fish recruitment' and one crab species in 'Mudcrabs', so it is more accurate to simply report it as it is.
- The Water quality indicator will already be different, as it is 'Water and Sediment quality' in the GHHP report card, but only 'Water quality' in the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan
- It is important to maintain stability and consistency in the Report Card

In summary, the ISP recommended that it is better to keep the names in their current form, but revisit this in the future as reporting for the Reef is confirmed.

Mudcrabs

The ISP noted that the development of the Mudcrabs indicator has been very successful, with data successfully collected in up to eight zones in June and July 2017. The CQU project team have developed four indicators to represent mud crab health in the harbour:

- Total abundance (catch per unit effort)
- Prevalence of rust lesions
- Sex ratio
- Biomass (only to be included in the future when sufficient baseline data is available).

The ISP recommends that the Mudcrab indicators be added to the 2016-17 Report Card, with the normal explanations that this is still an indicator in development phase.

Indigenous Cultural Health

The ISP noted that the contractor, Terra Rosa, has largely completed the assessment of Cultural Heritage for 2016-17, and submitted a draft final report, despite some problems in relations with the Gidarjil group. The consultant has also recommended some changes in the methodology for future years.

The ISP also noted that an external reviewer, Dr Luke Godwin, has been asked to conduct an external review of the assessments in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and the methodology. The ISP recommended that an additional review be conducted, with the expectation that the total cost of reviews would be less than \$5,000. An appropriate second reviewer has been identified by the ISP.

Internal review of the GHHP Report Card

The review has been conducted by Nathan Johnston (FPRH), Nicole Flint (CQU) and Luke Ukkola (FPRH), and a draft report provided. The review team were asked to conduct:

- review the ways in which the Report Card has met the original GHHP Vision
- Compare the GHHP report card to new advancements and emerging report cards, including the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan and other report cards for Queensland catchments.

- Assess the internal consistency in methods used to score and grade the components, indicator groups and indicators within the Report Card.

The report finds that the GHHP Report Card *'provides a comprehensive and robust assessment of the condition of Gladstone Harbour. While some observations are offered to assist with streamlining aspects of the Report Card, overall the report card largely meets the original GHHP Vision and early recommendations. The Report Card compares positively to emerging literature, demonstrating its continuing relevance in a global setting. The Report Card also performs well when compared to the Outcomes Framework and 2020 Targets of the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan. In particular, the development and implementation of Indigenous cultural heritage indicators should be recognised and commended, as a first in Queensland.*

The ISP is making some requests for more detail and analysis to be added to the report in some areas so that it can be finalised for the Management Committee.

Harbour Tour at next meeting

The ISP are planning a harbour tour at the next meeting, potentially in conjunction with the Management Committee. This might potentially happen after the ISP meeting on the 1st of November, with a dinner to follow that night.