



Gladstone  
Healthy Harbour  
Partnership

# 2020 GLADSTONE HARBOUR REPORT CARD

Independently monitoring  
& reporting on the health of  
Gladstone Harbour

*Healthy Harbour, Healthy Future*



# Report Card Monitoring Evolution

Monitoring since 2014 has shown that some indicators are stable from year to year. Because of this stability, some assessments will now be done every third or fifth year. Social, Cultural, Economic and Mangroves were not assessed for the 2020 Report Card. For these indicators, the 2019 results have been carried over to 2020.

## Social Results



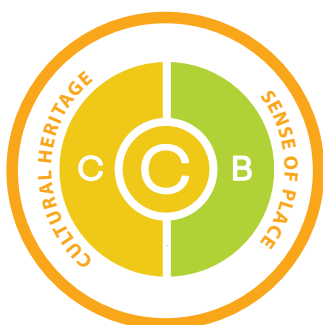
uses 2019 results

high confidence

SOCIAL	SCORE	GRADE
<b>OVERALL SOCIAL</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Harbour Usability</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>C</b>
- Satisfaction with harbour recreational activities	0.71	B
- Perceptions of air & water quality	0.58	C
- Perceptions of harbour safety for human usage	0.63	C
<b>Harbour Access</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>B</b>
- Satisfaction with harbour access	0.73	B
- Satisfaction with boat ramps & public spaces	0.65	B
- Perceptions of harbour health	0.63	C
- Perceptions of barriers to access	0.66	B
<b>Liveability / Wellbeing</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>B</b>
- Liveability / wellbeing	0.70	B

The overall grade for the Social component has remained good (B) since 2016, indicating that the Gladstone community continues to enjoy the harbour. The grades for all indicator groups—harbour usability (C), harbour access (B) and liveability and wellbeing (B)—remained consistent with the previous years. The harbour usability scores initially fluctuated between satisfactory and good but have remained satisfactory since 2017. The grades for harbour access and liveability and wellbeing have remained good since 2016. These results reflect how Gladstone Harbour contributes to the perceptions, wellbeing and lifestyle of the local community.

## Cultural Results



uses 2019 results

moderate confidence

CULTURAL	SCORE	GRADE
<b>OVERALL CULTURAL</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Sense of Place</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>B</b>
- Place attachment	0.58	C
- Continuity	0.58	C
- Pride in the region	0.74	B
- Wellbeing	0.61	C
- Appreciation of the harbour	0.83	B
- Values	0.66	B
<b>Cultural Heritage #</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>C</b>
- Physical condition	0.56	C
- Management strategies	0.52	C

# Represents the use of 2018 results

The overall grade for the Cultural component was satisfactory (C)—a grade that has remained unchanged since this component was completed in 2016. This suggests that the community's expectations of the Gladstone Harbour area are being met. The grade for sense of place has remained good (B) over the last five years, suggesting an increased engagement and appreciation of the harbour. The grade for cultural heritage has remained satisfactory (C) since it was first assessed in 2016. The stakeholder engagement scores have ranged from satisfactory to poor, highlighting the need for improved engagement activities.

## Economic Results



uses 2019 results

high confidence

ECONOMIC	SCORE	GRADE
<b>OVERALL ECONOMIC</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Economic Performance</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>A</b>
- Shipping activity	0.90	A
- Tourism	0.90	A
- Commercial fishing	0.36	D
<b>Economic Stimulus</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>C</b>
- Employment	0.44	D
- Socio-economic status	0.64	C
<b>Economic Value (Recreation)</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>B</b>
- Land-based recreation	0.77	B
- Recreational fishing	0.71	B
- Beach recreation	0.76	B
- Water-based recreation	0.76	B

The overall Economic grade has remained good (B) since the pilot report card in 2014. Economic performance has received very good scores (A) since 2016 owing to the continuing strength of shipping and tourism. However, commercial fishing has received poor scores (D) since 2015. Economic stimulus has been satisfactory (C) since 2018. Employment has scored poorly since 2018, declining from a satisfactory score in 2017. Socio-economic status has remained satisfactory since 2018. The score for economic value (recreation) has remained good (B) since 2014.

# Environmental Results

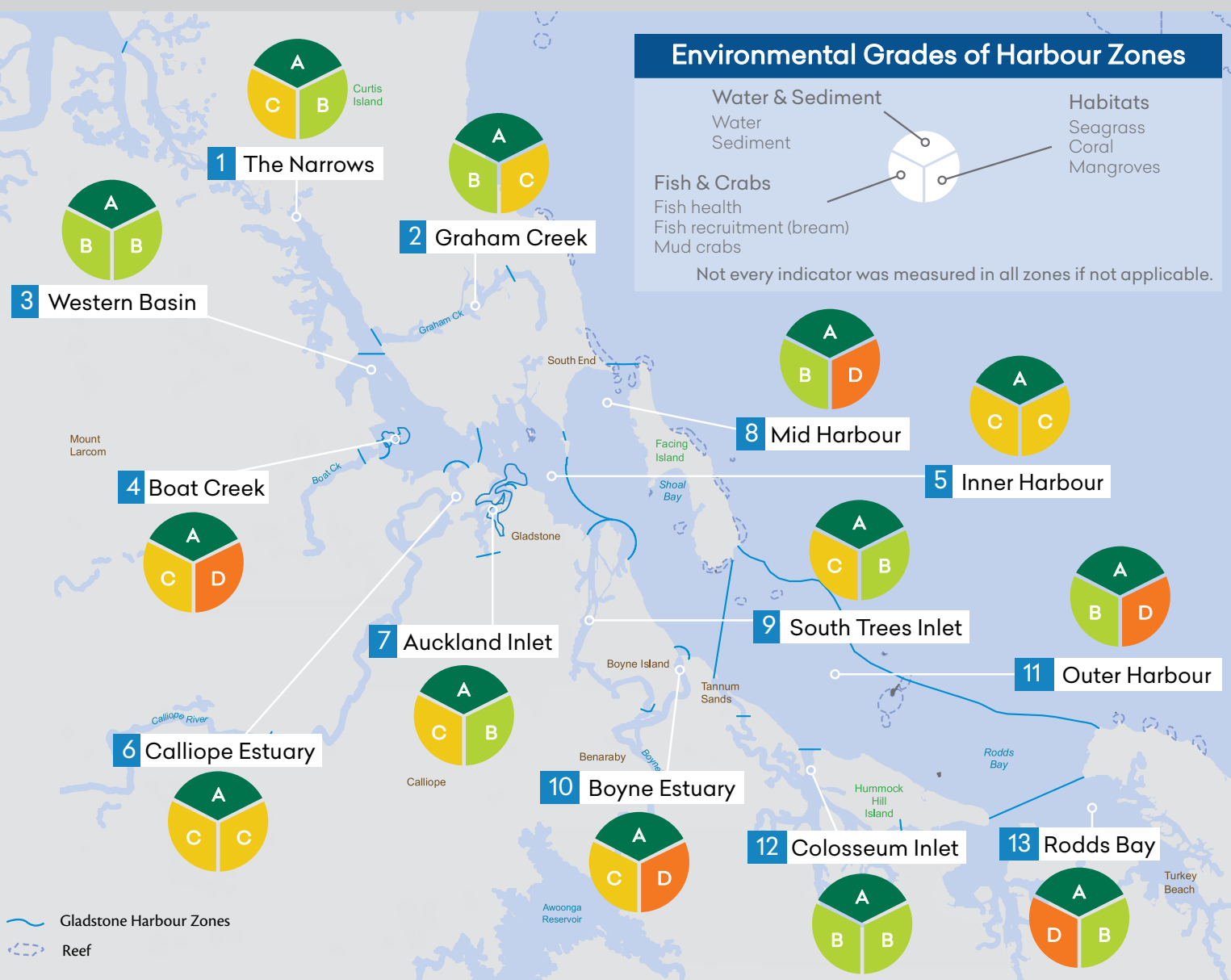
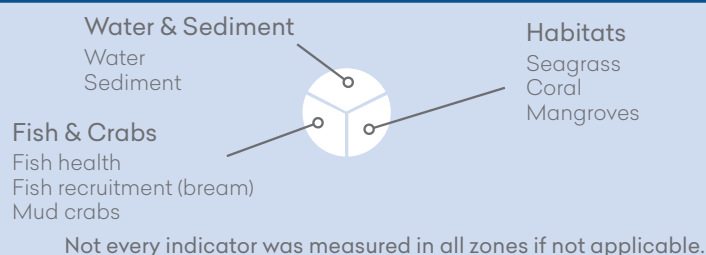


ENVIRONMENTAL	SCORE	GRADE
<b>OVERALL ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Water &amp; Sediment</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>A</b>
- Water	0.89	A
- Sediment	0.95	A
<b>Habitats</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>C</b>
- Seagrass	0.79	B
- Coral	0.14	E
- Mangroves #	0.57	C
<b>Fish &amp; Crabs</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>C</b>
- Fish health	0.69	B
- Fish recruitment (breem)	0.64	C
- Mud crabs	0.39	D

# Represents the use of 2019 results

The overall Environmental score improved from satisfactory in 2019 to good (B) in 2020 which is the first time this grade has been achieved. Contributing to this improvement were improved grades for water quality (A), seagrass (B) and fish recruitment (C). Water and sediment quality received an A for the fourth consecutive year. Both the habitats and fish and crab indicator groups improved from the previous year, receiving an overall grade of C. The improvements were a result of better scores for seagrass (B) and fish recruitment (C). The overall score for coral was slightly lower than 2019, although the grade remained unchanged.

## Environmental Grades of Harbour Zones



## Grading, Confidence & Trends

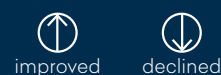
Grades for this report card were calculated using 33 indicators derived from 106 different measures of the environmental, social, economic and cultural health of Gladstone Harbour. The components and indicator groups were graded A, B, C, D or E based on the scores of the measures specific to each component.

Confidence levels for the component grades were measured on a three point scale. Changes in grades for components from the 2019 to 2020 report cards are presented as improved, declined, unchanged or used 2019 results.

GRADING SYSTEM	
<b>A</b>	Very good (0.85-1.00)
<b>B</b>	Good (0.65-0.84)
<b>C</b>	Satisfactory (0.50-0.64)
<b>D</b>	Poor (0.25-0.49)
<b>E</b>	Very poor (0.00-0.24)



CHANGE  
2019 to 2020



# Highlights

The 2020 Gladstone Harbour Report Card had several noteworthy highlights.



The **Environmental** component was graded as B for the first time since GHHP reporting began in 2014. This result was driven by improved grades for water quality, seagrass, and fish recruitment.

**Water quality** was relatively uniform across the harbour, with 12 of the 13 environmental monitoring zones receiving very good grades. The remaining zone received a good grade. As in previous years, dissolved metals scores were consistently very good at the zone level. Both physicochemical and nutrient scores improved markedly in most zones. As a result, this was the first time the overall water quality indicator received a very good grade (A).

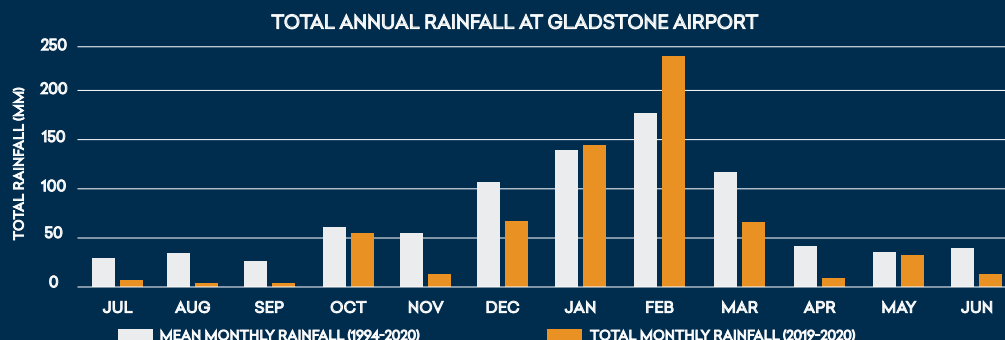
**Seagrass** in Gladstone Harbour was graded as good (B). This is the second year of substantial recovery from the overall poor condition reported in previous report cards (2015 – 2018). Moreover, the overall seagrass condition in 2020 was the

best in the past decade. As in the previous year, results suggest that the dry, mild weather conditions provided ideal conditions for seagrass recovery. The overall improvements shown in the majority of monitored zones provide a strong foundation for seagrass in the Gladstone area.



## GLADSTONE RAINFALL

Large rainfall events and extended dry seasons can impact the health of the harbour. In the 2019–20 reporting year, annual rainfall at Gladstone Airport was below the 26-year average for most months and was the third consecutive year of below average rainfall for Gladstone. This may have contributed to the improved environmental scores and grades this year.



## Acknowledgement of Country

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and sea in the Port Curtis Coral Coast region, the Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda and Bailai people and pays respect to the ancestors, the Elders both past and present, and to the people.

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (consisting of the following partners) independently monitors and reports on the health of Gladstone Harbour, and in doing so provides this annual Report Card.



For more information, resources and fact sheets please contact:



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