Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership

Management Committee Meeting 34 Minutes

Date: Wednesday 13th November 2019 **Time:** 9:00am to 1:30pm

Location: Leo Zussino Building, CQU, Marina Campus

Attendees:

Name	Position	Organisation
Community		
Mr Paul Birch	GHHP Independent Chair	Fitzroy Basin Association
Mrs Elyse Riethmuller	Chief Executive Officer	Fitzroy Basin Association
Government		
Councillor Desley O'Grady	Councillor	Gladstone Regional Council
Ms Rachel D'Arcy	Manager Reef Partnerships	The Office of the Great Barrier Reef, DES
Ms Nicole Lowrey (Phone in)	Reef Delivery Section	Department of Environment and Energy
Industry		
Dr Megan Ellis	Marine Scientist	Gladstone Ports Corporation
Mr Clinton Windsor	PROXY	Gladstone Industry Leaders Group
Research		
Prof. Owen Nevin	Associate Vice Chancellor	Central Queensland University
ISP Members		
Dr John Rolfe	ISP Chair	GHHP Independent Science Panel
Staff		
Mr Craig Davenport	Executive Officer	GHHP
Mrs Lyndal Hansen	Media and Communication Team	Amarna Consulting
Dr Mark Schultz	Science Team	GHHP
Mr Mac Hansler	Science Team	GHHP
Mrs Amy-Lee Pople	GHHP Secretariat	GHHP

Apologies:

Name	Position	Organisation
Mr Nigel Warrington	Acting CEO	Gladstone Industry Leaders Group
Mr Rob Gibb	Manager, Communities & Sustainable Development	ConocoPhillips Australia
Mr Brent McLellan	PCCC TUMRA Coordinator	GIDARJIL
Mr Gerry Graham	Management Committee Representative	Community Representative

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

Meeting Started: 9:30am

GHHP Chair welcomed all attending Management Committee members, provided apologies, welcomed phone-in attendee and paid respect to the land of which the meeting was held and the traditional land holders.

Agenda Item 2 – 2019 Report Card Results

2.1 Water and Sediment

Science team presented the 2019 Report Card results for 'Water and Sediment'.
Items to be noted:
Water quality-
- The overall grade for water quality was a B (0.81), showing a similar score to previous report card years.
- At the zone level, physicochemical scores were good or very good and dissolved metal scores were all very good.
- Nutrient scores showed the greatest improvement compared to 2018 scores (0.47 to 0.61).
- NOx and orthophosphate are excluded from the 2019 report card as there would be an element of double counting if NOx and Orthophosphate were included as they are already measured under Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus respectively.
- It is expected that DES will revisit the WQOs for the Port Curtis region in 2020 or 2021, it would be preferable to delay the possibility of inclusion until the WQOs are revised/confirmed.
Sediment quality-
- The overall score for sediment quality was 0.95 and was identical to the 2018 score.
- Sediment mercury included as limit of reporting now at an acceptable level
- Most zone scores were very good. There were some satisfactory and good scores for arsenic and nickel. This pattern is like previous years. Both are naturally occurring within the harbour and may not be associated with anthropogenic inputs.

Management Committee accept the 2019 water and sediment results.

2.2 Coral Indicator

Science team presented the 2019 report card results for 'Corals'.
Items to be noted:
- The overall score for corals was very poor (0.18)—a continued decline since 2017.
- Results suggest the cumulative impacts of the 2013 flooding and ongoing pressures, such as high macroalgae cover, are slowing the recovery of corals.
- The condition of reefs in the harbour are comparable with other severely impacted reefs surveyed in the MMP.
- Corals in Gladstone Harbour clearly demonstrated limited recovery potential in 2019.

Management Committee accept the 2019 coral results.

2.3 Seagrass Indicator

Science team presented the 2019 report card results for 'Seagrass.
Items to be noted:

- The overall seagrass condition for 2019 was satisfactory (0.59)—a noteworthy improvement.
- The preceding year (2018) was characterized by dry, benign weather conditions with minimal Calliope River discharge and very low rainfall.
- Seagrass meadows in Gladstone Harbour are currently recovering after several years of poor condition.

Management Committee accept the 2019 seagrass results.

2.4 Mangrove Indicator

Science team presented the 2019 report card results for 'Mangroves'.
Items to be noted:
- The overall grade for 2019 was a C (0.57). The zones with the highest grades were Colosseum Inlet, Outer Harbour, The Narrows and Auckland Inlet all of which were in a good condition.
- Colosseum Inlet and Outer Harbour benefit from being further removed from the direct impacts of clearing and development that has occurred in more central zones.
- Two zones, Boyne Estuary and Boat Creek, received a poor grade.
- The Boyne Estuary score was a result of a very poor shoreline condition score and canopy condition score. Severe flood impacts, affecting the shoreline trees, were observed in this zone.
- Boat Creek had a poor score for canopy condition. The decline in canopy condition may be a result of the low levels of rainfall.
- The remaining 7 zones all had satisfactory scores.

Management Committee accept the 2019 mangrove results.

2.5 Fish Health

Science team presented the 2019 report card results for 'Fish Health'.
Items to be noted:
- The overall grade for Fish Health in the 2019 report card was a B (0.69).
- In both studies used to measure fish health, all fish showed very few signs of external health issues.
- Mixed results were recorded in the VFC sub-indicator, the mean score for mangrove jack was above the historic baseline, while three species (barred javelin, dusky flathead and yellow-finned bream) were below the historic average.
- Over the course of the year there was little or no freshwater flow from rivers and creeks into Gladstone Harbour which may have negatively impacted food availability for these three species.
- The highest scores in the HAI were for barramundi (35.2) (highest scores for liver and parasites) and blue catfish (34.2) (highest scores for liver and kidney).
- Scores for the remaining three species indicated fish in a good condition.

Management Committee accept the 2019 fish health results.

2.6 Fish Recruitment

Science team presented the 2019 report card results for 'Fish Recruitment'.
Items to be noted:

- Data for two bream species were collected from 12 harbour zones from December 2018 to March 2019.
- The 2019 score of 0.27 (D) is the lowest recorded since 2016.
- The overall grade may be a response to the low levels of rainfall observed and low freshwater inflows into the harbour over the report card year.
- The 2019 incidental catch of banana prawns was approximately 50% of the 2018 catch.

Management Committee accept the 2019 fish recruitment results.

2.7 Mud Crab Indicator

Science team presented the 2019 report card results for 'Mud Crabs'.
Items to be noted:
- There has been a change in sex ratio benchmark from 2male to 1 female, however this has had no influence on the results at all.
- The overall mud crab condition in 2019 was poor (0.47) and similar to 2018.
- Abundance scores ranged from very good to very poor, receiving an overall poor score (0.47). There was only one mud crab caught in Auckland Creek.
- Sex ratio received very poor scores in the six zones where it could be calculated. These patterns suggests; fishers are observing regulations for the release of female crabs, which may be skewing the sex ratio towards a female-dominated population and that presently the timing and population effect of the female spawning migration is not well understood and may be influencing scores for this sub-indicator.
- Prevalence of rust lesions was low to very low in the six zones where it could be calculated.

Management Committee accept the 2019 mud crab results.

2.8 Overall Environment Score

Science team presented the 2019 report card results for 'Environment' component.
Items to be noted:
- The overall 2019 environment score was identical to that of 2018, however, there were numerous changes at the indicator group and indicator levels.
- The overall environment score was a C (0.60).

Management Committee accept the 2019 Environmental results.

2.9 Social Indicators

Science team presented the 2019 report card results for 'Social' component.
Items to be noted:
- 439 survey respondents- 401 CATI respondents (2/3 mobiles & 1/3 landlines) and 38 online survey respondents.
- Shorter survey and response rate for the online version of the survey.
- 9% Traditional owner respondents
- 4% younger age respondents (18-24yrs). Twice as many 18-24year old respondents in the online survey.
- 51.5% female respondents
- Indicator scores were similar to 2018
- Of the 8 indicator scores, 5 were good and 3 were satisfactory
- The highest indicator score was satisfaction with 'access to the harbour' (0.73) and the lowest indicator score was for 'perceptions of air and water quality' (0.58)

- The majority of measure scores were comparable to 2018

MC comments/questions:

- How was online survey published?
  Email distribution list created from community events.
- Any changes in questions or wording?
  Confirmed no changes this year.
- Are the questions too general and that's why we are getting the same answers each year?
  Confirmed that some questions seem similar to others and that the survey could be too long (73 questions) and not capturing enough variation.
- Why is air quality included when it is not something GHHP reports on?
  Confirmed that air quality was in the original community vision of GHHP.
- Rachel mentioned that the State Government is currently working on Human Dimension indicators and would keep the ISP in touch with how that project is rolling out.

Management Committee accept the 2019 Social results.

Action Items:

34.1 – Rachel D'arcy to contact science team regarding Human Dimension indicators.

2.10 Economic Indicators

Science team presented the 2019 report card results for 'Economic' component.
Items to be noted:
Economic Performance-
- The economic performance indicator group consists of 3 indicators: the level of shipping activity, tourism and commercial fishing.
- Data was collected from various secondary data sources similar to last year.
- Shipping activity remained unchanged from 2018 but has improved from 2014. On average 54 ship movements per month which is similar to last year. Shipping was dominated by coal exports, followed by LNG and Alumina exports. Shipping activity continues to be the dominant performer within this indicator group.
- Tourism score remains unchanged from 2018.
- Commercial fishing must be interpreted with caution as there have been some missing data in the Qfish database. There has been a decline in GVP and an overall decline since 2014, although it remains relatively strong when compared to neighbouring regions.
Economic Stimulus-
- The economic stimulus indicator group consists of two indicators: employment and socio-economic status.
- Employment based on unemployment statistics for Gladstone LGA is stable compared to 2018 but has declined since 2017. Noted that Gladstone has a higher unemployment rate than the State average but is comparable with surrounding regions.
- Socio-economic status remains the same as 2018 and is showing a pattern of decline similar to employment.
Economic Value-
- The economic stimulus indicator group consists of four indicators (land-based recreation, recreational fishing, beach recreation and water-based recreation) and is based on the travel cost method applied to data from the CATI Surveys.
- Overall the economic value estimates for 2019 were higher than the 2018 values.
Overall Economic results-

- The overall grade for Economic component remains unchanged from the previous year.
- Economic performance remains the same as the previous year due to similar levels of shipping, tourism expenditure and commercial fishing.
- Economic stimulus and economic value were also similar.

Management Committee accept the 2019 Economic results.

2.11 Cultural Indicators

The Cultural indicator scores in the 2019 report card are the same scores published in the 2018 report card.

Management Committee accept the 2018 Cultural results to be used for the 2019 report card.

2.12 Report Card Confidence Ratings

Science team presented the 2019 confidence rating for the 'Environment' component of the report card.
Items to be noted:
- Confidence rating = HIGH
- Change in rating from medium to high
- Component includes all sub indicators now
- Sub-indicators have appropriate and consistent methodology
- Sub indicators have appropriate sampling frequency with minimal lab issues.

Science team presented the 2019 confidence rating for the 'Social' component of the report card.
Items to be noted:
- Confidence rating= HIGH
- Methodology stable and developed for the Gladstone Harbour Report Card.
- There were no missing data or indicators.
- The data collection processes has improved by including an online version of the CATI survey. This had a superior response rate and shorter average survey time.
- Some differences between CATI survey and online survey responses, however, score differences were minor.
- Limitations:
- Younger (18-34) participants underrepresented, older (45-65+) participants overrepresented.
- Largely based on a single survey—few corroborating data.
- Marine safety data is not Gladstone specific; drawn from the wider Gladstone Maritime Region.

Science team presented the 2019 confidence rating for the 'Cultural' component of the report card.
Items to be noted:
- Confidence rating= MEDIUM
- Overall there were no missing data or indicators in the Cultural component.
- Methodology to assess 'Sense of Place' is well established.
- The Indigenous Cultural Heritage indicator group results were based on 2018 data.
- Sense of Place is belief based, subjective and can be affected by recent events; results based on a single survey only—no corroborating data.

- The Indigenous Cultural Heritage indicator group is very novel, and further development may be required.

Science team presented the 2019 confidence rating for the 'Economic' component of the report card.
Items to be noted:
- Confidence rating= HIGH
- Methodology is reliable, repeatable and developed for the Gladstone Harbour Report Card.
- The methods have been stable since pilot report card in 2014 (minor changes only).
- No missing data or indicators.
- Tourism: Ongoing issues with separating the effect of Gladstone Harbour from Gladstone City.
- Commercial fishing: There are three months of production data (fishing effort based on number of licenses and number of days fished) missing from the QFish database at the time of the score calculation.

Management Committee accept the 2019 confidence ratings for all four components.

Agenda Item 3 – Reports

3.1 Previous Minutes and Actions

Previous meeting minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3.2 Science Program Report

This agenda item was not reviewed by the Management Committee.

3.3 ISP Chair Report

ISP Chair provided an overview as per agenda item 3.3.1.
Items to be noted:
- Projects are on schedule
- Draft scores and grades have been developed for all components of the 2019 Report Card
- Contracts for the 2019-20 monitoring are being progressively organised

3.4 Executive Officer Report

This agenda item was not reviewed by the Management Committee.

3.5 Finance Report

Elyse Reithmuller presented the Finance Report as per agenda item 3.5.1.

Rachel asked if the money had been received from the public benefit order. Elyse advised it had been received however there was no details regarding the expenditure included.

Action Items:
34.2 – Rachel D'arcy to provide public benefit order details and requirements to GHHP Chair.

Agenda Item 4 – Items requiring decision

4.1 2018 Water and Sediment Quality Report approval to publish on GHHP website

This agenda item was not review by the Management Committee.

4.2 2019 Report Card- FINAL

Noted: MC member Nicole Lowrey Australian Government requested to view the report card. The Chair offered to bring a copy to the Synthesis Meeting in Mackay in December.

Nicole Lowrey left the meeting at 12.30pm and approved her Proxy for decisions to Rachel D'Arcy.

Changes to be made to the 2019 Report Card layout and inclusions:

Page 2:

- In the text to the side of the scores the first line needs to be the score for the year. e.g. This year score for Environment was Satisfactory and not a direct reflection on the comparison from the previous year.
- SOCIAL text to include: this year we have used standard telephone method and online method that assists to capture additional responses. (Remove CATI)
- Colouring: distinguish the scores from the indicators (specifically Cultural)
- Only one # in white in the Cultural heading

Page 3:

- Environmental heading to explain + darker legend with sub-headings
- Environmental is all on page 3 and other indicators plus grading key on page 2
- Add sentence to text to explain that not all indicators are reported on in each zone.
- Key on page 3- habitat with seagrass, corals and mangroves under it
- Remove 'from grades' in the key legend.
- Including: delete completeness of indicators used and quality and quantity of monitoring data

Page 4:

- Research highlights: reduce text & add dot points
- Reintroduce weather box (if fits)
- Change photos
- Include- Citizen science data was used to collect data for fish health indicator.
- Add on top of partners logos to explain GHHP (text from annual report).

Management Committee endorse the above changes to be made to the 2019 Report Card.

Action Items:
34.3 – ISP Chair to supply research highlights data dot points.
34.4 – Communications Team to make requested changes to the 2019 Report Card.

Agenda Item 5 – General/Recurring Business

- ISP Chair asked about the approvals for the Fish Health Workshop as per action item 33.5- Review the proposed budget requests from ISP. ISP Chair noted that the workshop costs are within the Science Budget.

Next meeting: PARTNERSHIP- Thursday 12th December

Meeting closed: 1:20pm

Meeting Actions Register: Meeting Actions Register:

Action Number	Action	Who is responsible?	When it is due?	Status	Notes
MC Meeting 33					
MC 33.1	Welcome letter for Erin and signed by GHHP Chair.	Mark Schultz & Craig Davenport		Completed	
MC 33.2	Farewell and thank-you letter to Cathy Dichmont.	Mark Schultz & Craig Davenport		Completed	
MC 33.3	Submit DES correspondence to GHHP Chair	ISP Chair		Completed	
MC 33.4	GHHP Chair to review DES correspondence and follow up with Jim Fewings request written response from DES	GHHP Chair		Completed	
MC 33.5	Review the proposed budget requests from ISP regarding fish health.	Governance Committee		Completed	
MC 33.6	Explore sponsorship opportunities for 1day Nutrients workshop	Craig Davenport & ISP Chair		Completed	
MC Meeting 34					
MC 34.1	Contact science team regarding Human Dimension indicators.	Rachel D'Arcy		Completed	
MC 34.2	Provide community benefit order requirements and information.	Rachel D'Arcy		Completed	
MC 34.3	Provide updated research highlights for the report card (in dot form).	ISP Chair		Completed	
MC 34.4	Make requested changes to the report card.	Comms team		Completed	