



2024 REPORT CARD

SEAGRASS



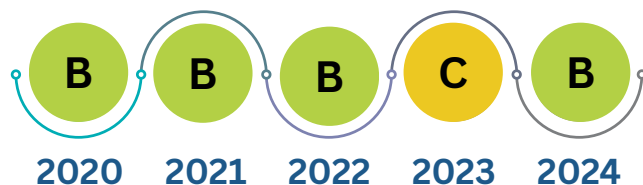
Gladstone Healthy
Harbour Partnership

What is seagrass?

Seagrass is one of the habitat indicators in the Gladstone Harbour Report Card.

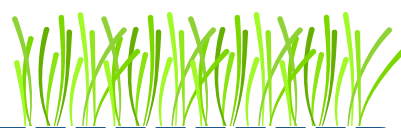
It supports marine life by providing nursery and foraging areas for species like juvenile and adult fish, dugongs and turtles. Seagrass ecosystems also help with sediment stabilisation, nutrient cycling, and carbon sequestration.

At its peak, seagrass covers around 12,000 hectares in the harbour.



In the 2024 Report Card, Seagrass received a score of 0.68 and was graded Good (B), returning to the 2022 score.

Improvements in Seagrass condition may be attributed to below average rainfall and decreased discharge from the Calliope River relative to previous years.



How is it measured?

Seagrass surveys in Gladstone Harbour are conducted annually in November by James Cook University's TropWATER. Surveys are done aerially and underwater. Fourteen meadows across six zones are monitored annually for the Report Card.

Three sub-indicators are used to assess seagrass health:

- **Biomass** measures the amount of above-ground seagrass in a meadow.
- **Area** maps the boundaries to track whether seagrass coverage is changing.
- **Species Composition** monitors the types of seagrass.

GHHP acknowledges and thanks the Gladstone Ports Corporation for their contribution of data, images, and information provided from their annual seagrass monitoring program.