

## What is water and water quality?

Water in estuaries like Gladstone Harbour supports countless marine species such as dugongs and turtles, and is vital for the health of the entire ecosystem.

Water quality refers to the physicochemical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the water—such as pH, turbidity, nutrients, and dissolved metals.

A A B B B B 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

The overall harbour score for Water quality in the 2024 Report Card was 0.83 resulting in a Good (B) grade.

Out of the 13 reporting zones, three received Very Good (A) grades, while the remaining ten were graded Good (B).

Water quality may be affected by anthropogenic, climatic, or other factors.

## How is it measured?

Water Quality monitoring in Gladstone Harbour is carried out by the **Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program (PCIMP).** The data was collected from 51 sites across 13 harbour zones during August and November 2023, and March and June 2024.

Eleven water quality parameters were assessed: two physicochemical measures, three nutrient measures and six dissolved metals.

Water Quality Objectives and guideline values were provided by DEHP Water Quality Objectives for the Capricorn Curtis Coast for pH, turbidity and nutrients, the ANZG (2018) for metals (except aluminium), and Golding et al. (2014) for aluminium in marine waters.