



2024 REPORT CARD

# SEDIMENT QUALITY



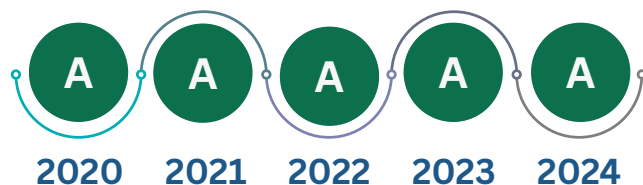
Gladstone Healthy  
Harbour Partnership

## *What is sediment?*

Sediment is the loose, natural material—like sand, silt, and clay—that settles at the bottom of rivers, estuaries, and the ocean.

Sediment quality refers to how clean or polluted that material is. Healthy sediment supports plants and animals living on the seafloor, while poor-quality sediment can harm marine life and water health.

Sediment quality has continuously received a Very Good (A) since 2015.



Sediment Quality scored a Very Good (A) in the 2024 Report Card.

Sediment quality scores have remained stable across all zones since monitoring began. Cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc score a uniform (A) across all zones. Arsenic and nickel are slightly more variable.



## *How is it measured?*

Water and Sediment Quality monitoring in Gladstone Harbour is carried out by the **Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program (PCIMP)**. Sediment samples were collected from 51 harbour monitoring sites in May 2024.

Sediment quality is assessed annually, focusing on six metals: cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, and zinc, and one metalloid: arsenic.

Metal and metalloid concentrations are compared to the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZG) (2018). These guidelines provide national benchmarks for protecting aquatic ecosystems.