

2026 REPORT CARD

SEAGRASS

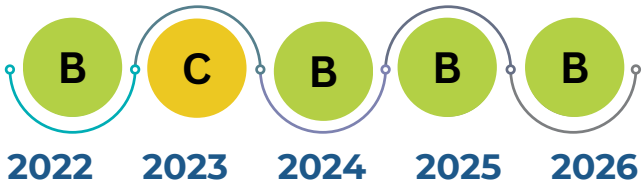
Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership

What is seagrass?

Seagrass is a flowering plant adapted to underwater marine environments, forming meadows that provide food and habitat for marine wildlife, including fish, dugongs and turtles. Seagrass also helps stabilise sediments and capture carbon.

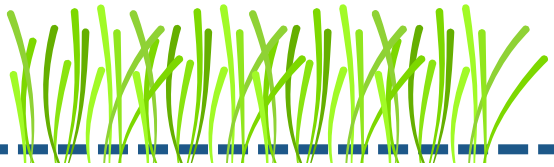
Seagrass is protected under the Queensland Fisheries Act 1994.

At its peak, seagrass covers around 16,000 hectares in the harbour.



In the 2026 Report Card, Seagrass maintained its score of 0.78 and Good (B) grade for the third consecutive year.

This reflects consistently good seagrass condition across the 14 monitored meadows of Gladstone Harbour.



How is it measured?

Seagrass surveys in Gladstone Harbour are conducted annually in October/November by James Cook University's TropWATER for Gladstone Ports Corporation. 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.

Image © James Cook University