



Gladstone
Healthy Harbour
Partnership



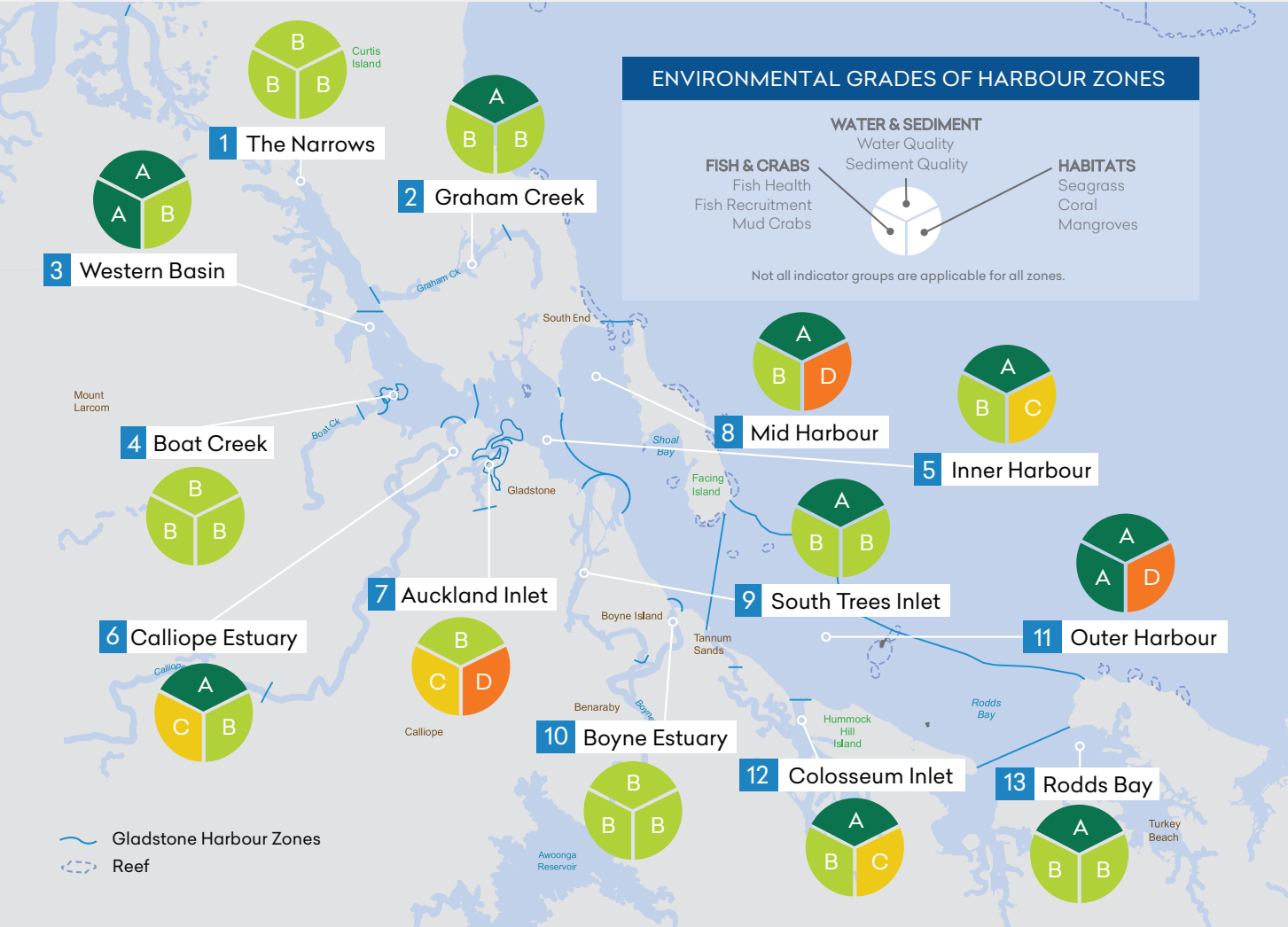
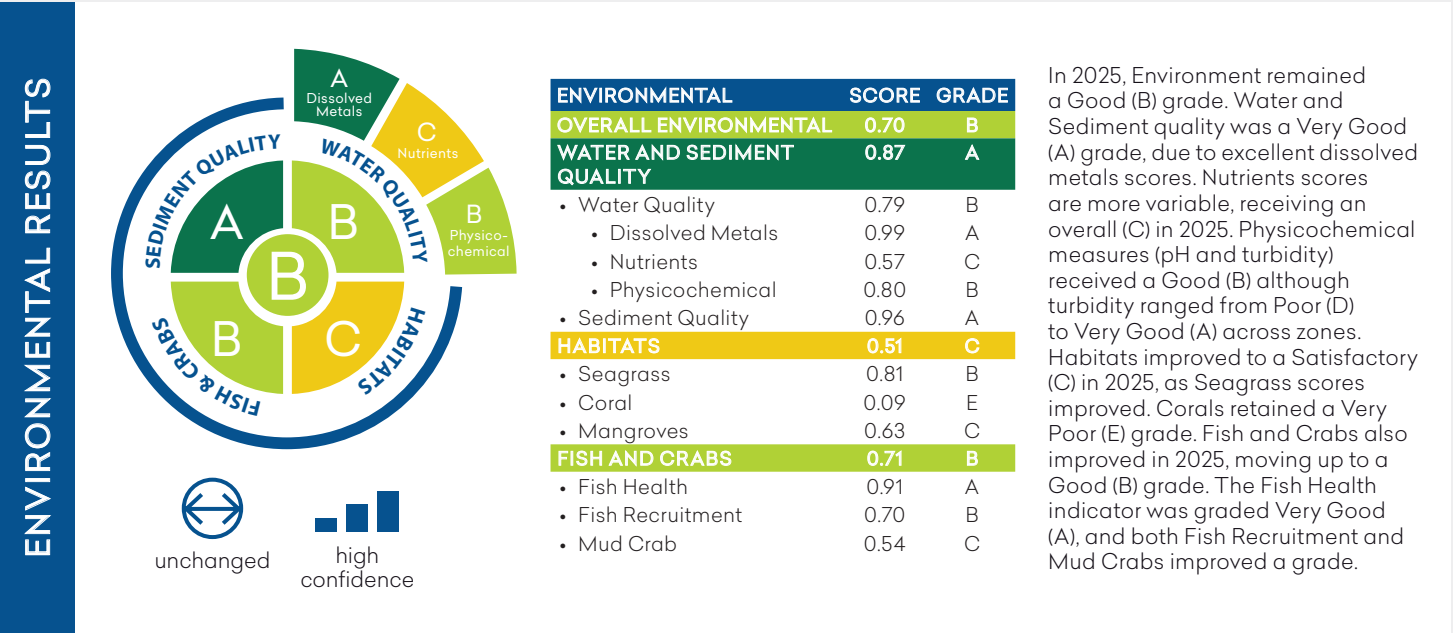
2025 GLADSTONE HARBOUR REPORT CARD

Independently monitoring
& reporting on the health of
Gladstone Harbour

Healthy Harbour, Healthy Future

REPORT CARD MONITORING

The 2025 Gladstone Harbour Report Card presents monitoring data collected from July 2024 to June 2025. It includes updated results for all Environmental indicators except Mangroves, and the Economic Performance and Economic Stimulus indicators. The Social and Cultural components were not assessed this year, and Indigenous Cultural Heritage has been redeveloped as Traditional Owner Values as a standalone section of the Report Card.



SOCIAL RESULTS



There was no new assessment of the Social indicators this year – results have been carried over from the 2024 report card. The overall Social grade has been consistently Good (B) since 2016, showing ongoing positive perceptions and community connection with the harbour.

CULTURAL RESULTS



There was no new assessment of the Cultural indicators this year. Sense of Place was last assessed in 2022, and these results have been used in 2025. The overall Cultural grade in 2025 was a Good (B). This year, Indigenous Cultural Heritage was removed from the Cultural component and replaced with a stand-alone Traditional Owner Values section.

ECONOMIC RESULTS



In 2025, the Economic component was graded a Good (B). Economic Performance earned a Very Good grade (A) owing to high Shipping and Tourism scores (0.89 and 0.90), despite a very low commercial fishing score (0.19). Economic Stimulus received a Satisfactory (C) grade, with a score of 0.51, very similar to last year. Economic Value was not assessed this year; results from 2022 were used instead.

GRADING, CONFIDENCE & TRENDS

This report card grades 33 indicators based on 107 different measures of Gladstone Harbour's Environmental, Social, Economic, and Cultural health. Each component and indicator group is graded A, B, C, D, or E according to its specific scores. Confidence in these grades is assessed via the Independent Science Panel, and includes data accuracy, consistency in monitoring methods and frequency, baseline datasets, and stability of the process. Detailed data quality information is in the Technical Report. Changes to grades from the 2025 Report Card are noted as improved, declined, unchanged, or carried over from previous results.

GRADING SYSTEM

- A Very Good (0.85–1.00)
- B Good (0.65–0.84)
- C Satisfactory (0.50–0.64)
- D Poor (0.25–0.49)
- E Very Poor (0.00–0.24)

CONFIDENCE



CHANGE (2024 - 2025)

- ↑ improved
- ↓ declined
- ↔ unchanged
- ↻ uses previous results

LITTER AND MARINE DEBRIS

WHO

Australian Marine Debris Initiative, collected by volunteers through Tangaroa Blue Foundation clean-up projects.

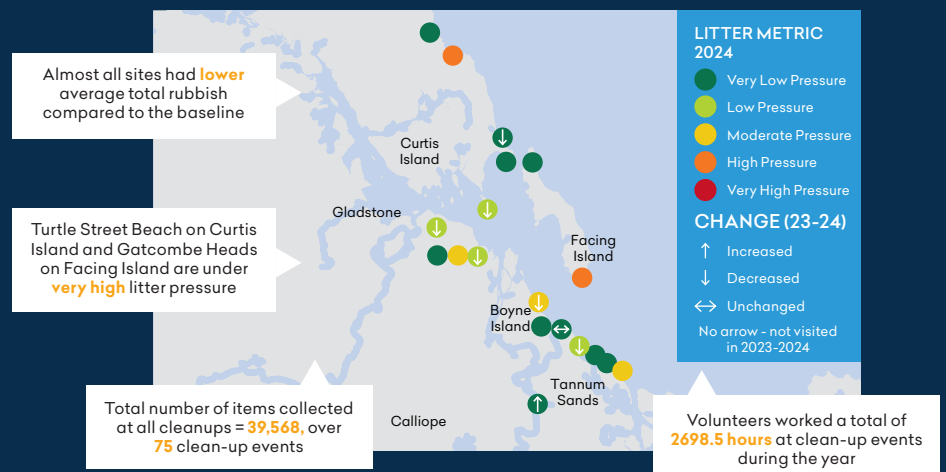
WHAT

Impact of litter on environments – total litter collected today compared to 10-year historic baseline

WHEN

Collections occurred between July 2023 – June 2024

RESULTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



GHHP acknowledges the Australian Marine Debris Initiative®, Tangaroa Blue Foundation®, the community organisations, and individuals involved in the collection and the provision of data used in this report. This includes ReefClean which is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and delivered by Tangaroa Blue Foundation in partnership with Reef Check Australia, Capricornia Catchments, Eco Barge Clean Seas, OceanWatch Australia, South Cape York Catchments and Australian Microplastics Assessment Project.

TRADITIONAL OWNER VALUES



Case Study: Embedding Traditional Owner Values in Harbour Health Reporting

On 17 October 2024, Traditional Owners from the Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, and Taribelang Bunda peoples gathered for a pivotal two-day workshop hosted by Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership and led by the First Nations Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda Development Corporation (FNBGGGTBDC). The aim was to redefine how Traditional Owner values are integrated into the Gladstone Harbour Report Card, ensuring cultural perspectives are meaningfully represented in assessments of harbour health.

The workshop began with site visits to culturally significant locations such as Barney Point Park and Phillipies Landing Road, offering firsthand insight into the condition and significance of these places. On the second day, discussions focused on themes such as the role of Elders, connection to Country, cultural site management, and stakeholder and community relationships.

Participants identified key values such as connection to Country, spiritual significance, and cultural heritage protection, and discussed how these values relate to Gladstone Harbour. The previous assessments of four cultural zones and 39 reference sites were reviewed, with the three years of assessments showing an average grade of C, highlighting stable but vulnerable site conditions due to erosion, vehicle access, and cattle impacts. The workshop also reviewed examples of other report cards that include Traditional Owner values.

The participants recommended:

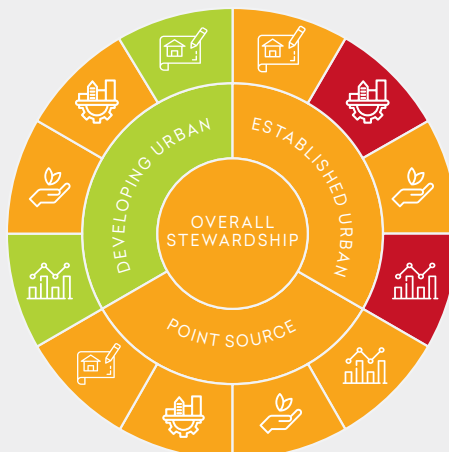
-  Elevating Traditional Owner Values to an independent element in the GHHP Report Card.
-  Presenting values through case studies of sites, highlighting condition, impacts, and management options.
-  Expanding reference sites and incorporating cultural mapping.
-  Including a foreword from the FNBGGGTB Elders Council.
-  Using drone and reality capture technology to support ongoing site assessments.

Photos: Nick Maclean, First Nations Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda Development Corporation (FNBGGGTBDC).

URBAN WATER STEWARDSHIP FRAMEWORK

In 2025, Gladstone Regional Council's urban water management activities were assessed based on the Queensland Government's Urban Water Stewardship Framework process across three primary groups:

- Activities from Developing Urban areas that may contribute to diffuse pollution received a Good (B) grade.
- Activities from Established Urban areas that may contribute to diffuse pollution were graded Satisfactory (C).
- Activities that may contribute to Point Source pollution (sewage treatment and sewer network management activities) were also graded Satisfactory (C).



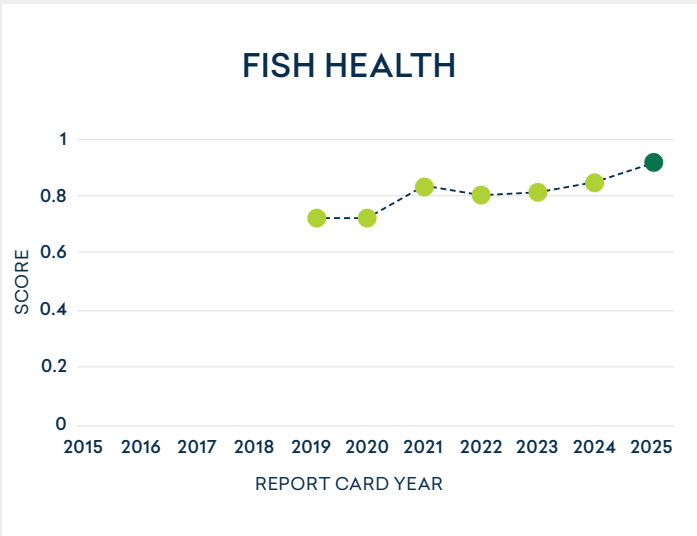
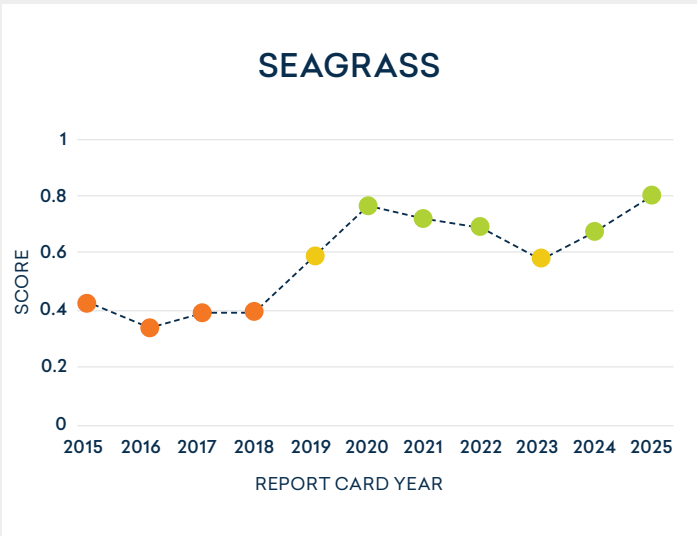
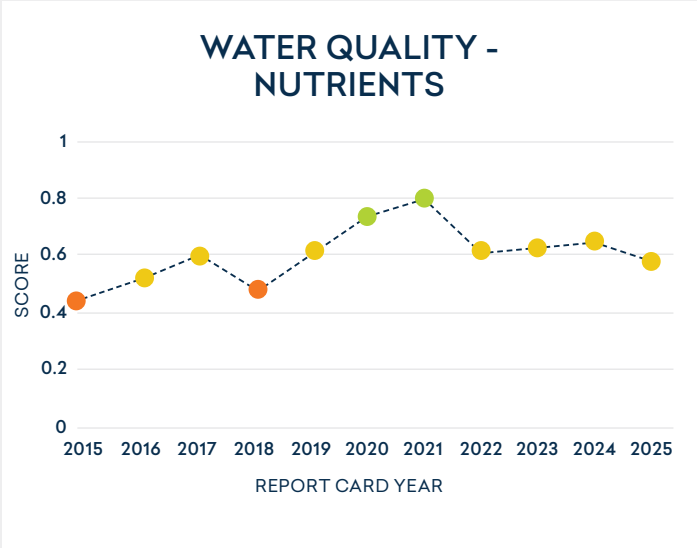
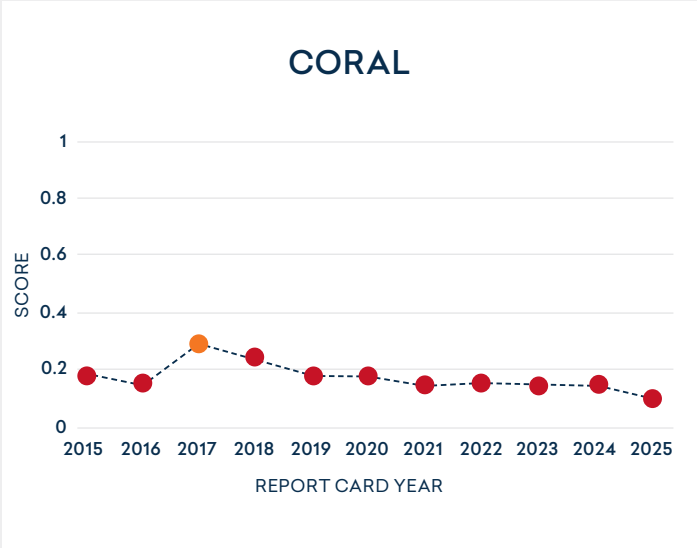
-  Planning & Governance
-  Infrastructure Management & Maintenance
-  Social Approaches
-  Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting & Improvement

- A Above best practice
- B Current best practice
- C Current minimum standard
- D Superseded or out of date standard

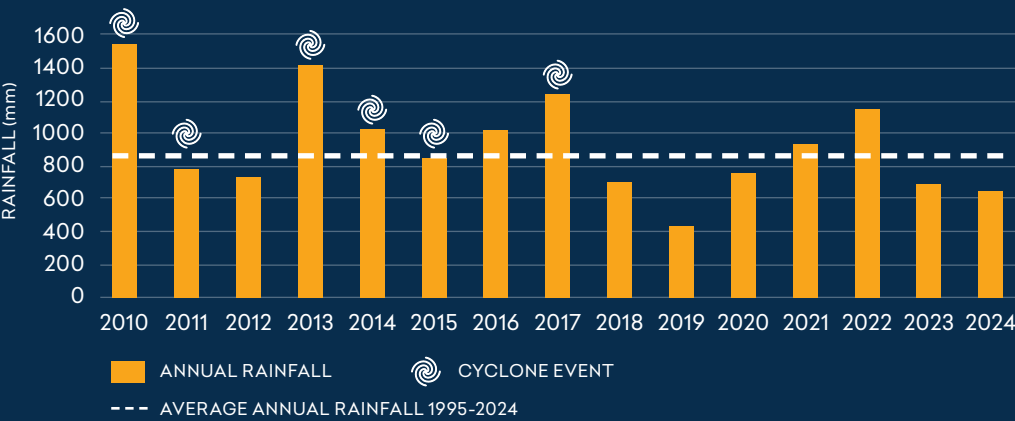
Gladstone Regional Council's overall urban water management practices were graded Satisfactory (C) – meaning that the levels of practice are either in line with current minimum standards (C) or current best practice performance (B). Notable improvements have been achieved in the Developing Urban area since the last assessment in 2023.

REPORT CARD TRENDS

Long term data availability provides opportunity for assessment of trends over time. In 2025, indicators like Coral, Nutrients, and Seagrass have eleven years of collected data. Coral was graded Very Poor (E) for the eighth year in a row. Corals are subject to multiple pressures within the Harbour and their rate of recovery is slow. Nutrients are variable in the Harbour, and can be influenced by a number of both natural and human inputs such as river flow and land use. Nutrients were graded Satisfactory (C) in 2025 for the fourth year in a row. Seagrass continues to improve in score in 2025 while remaining a Good (B) grade, and Fish health improved to a Very Good (A) grade for the first time.



RAINFALL RECORDED AT GLADSTONE AIRPORT



RAINFALL

Large rainfall events and extended dry seasons can impact the health of the harbour. Increased rainfall and river flow can adversely affect water clarity, nutrients and salinity levels. Since 2010, Gladstone has experienced seven years with above average rainfall, and the effects of seven tropical cyclones. Both 2023 and 2024 had lower than average rainfall for Gladstone.

GHHP: A YEAR IN REVIEW



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and sea in the Port Curtis Coral Coast region, the Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda and Bailai people and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (consisting of the following partners) monitors and reports on the health of Gladstone Harbour. This annual Report Card has been prepared by an Independent Science Panel for the Partnership.



For more information or resources please contact:

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Photo credits: Hannah King and Andrew Irving.

COMPLETED: November 2025