

A photograph of two sea turtles resting on a sandy beach. The turtles are covered in sand, and the background is filled with dry pine needles and twigs. The text is overlaid on the image.

HARBOUR

INSIGHTS

GLADSTONE HEALTHY HARBOUR PARTNERSHIP | JUN 2025

THE FISH HEALTH
ASSESSMENT INDEX
is returning

GHHP LAUNCHES

ABOVE & BELOW AT
ecofest

CHAIRS' *welcome*

Welcome to this edition of Harbour Insights. As GHHP celebrates its 10th anniversary, it's a time to acknowledge the incredible collaboration that has shaped our journey so far.

We were proud to celebrate this milestone alongside our community and Partners at Ecofest 2025, a fitting stage to launch the fifth edition of Above and Below, our annual magazine that brings the stories of the Harbour to life.

Thank you to our Partners, the Independent Science Panel, and the Gladstone community for your dedication to this important work. Together, we are shaping the future of the Harbour for generations to come.



Prof. Iain Gordon

GHHP INDEPENDENT CHAIR

Welcome to this special edition of Harbour Insights, where we share updates from GHHP's science program. As we celebrate GHHP's 10th anniversary, we reflect on the critical data collected over the past decade, including new findings in the 2024 Report Card on human dimensions, litter, and environmental trends.

Our Independent Science Panel is pleased to see the return of the Fish Health Assessment Index, and we're proud to support the integration of Traditional Owner Values into GHHP's monitoring. The Independent Science Panel remains committed to providing robust, science-based insights that help shape a healthier future for Gladstone Harbour.



Prof. John Rolfe

INDEPENDENT SCIENCE PANEL CHAIR

READ OUR
strategic
PLAN



READ OUR
annual
REPORT



GHHP'S 10th annual REPORT CARD



Launched on 22 November 2024, the 10th annual Gladstone Harbour Report Card highlights a decade of data on Harbour health from July 2023 to June 2024. It updates environmental indicators, economic performance, and stimulus results. While no new social or cultural assessments were done this year, past results have remained stable.

This edition features trend graphs for key indicators like water and sediment quality, seagrass, mud crabs, and fish recruitment, helping us track changes over time.

It also includes findings from the 2022–2023 litter and marine debris assessment, plus insights from the Human Dimensions survey reflecting community views.

READ OUR
report card



GHHP LAUNCHES ABOVE & BELOW AT *ecofest*

GHHP and our Partners were proud to be part of Ecofest 2025, Central Queensland's largest environmental awareness event. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with the community, share our latest work, and celebrate a decade of Harbour stewardship.

This year's Ecofest also marked the official launch of the fifth annual Above and Below report, showcasing inspiring actions and partnerships that highlight the many ways science, culture, community, and industry are working together for a healthier Harbour.

Thank you to all our Partners who helped bring these stewardship stories to life and were able to join us at Ecofest. Keep an eye on our social media channels as we explore each story and celebrate the collaborations behind them.

ABOVE & BELOW 2025 IN NUMBERS

15 

stories of stewardship
from our partners

4 

partner profiles

4 

behind-the-scenes
video story features
produced

READ THE
202 EDITION OF

*above &
below*



URBAN WATER STEWARDSHIP *framework*

Managing urban water is key to protecting our waterways, Harbour, and the Great Barrier Reef. The Urban Water Stewardship Framework (UWSF), developed by the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science, and Innovation, helps councils in the Great Barrier Reef catchment, including Gladstone Regional Council, improve urban water management.

On 13 March, Gladstone Regional Council representatives met to undertake the third biennial assessment, providing an opportunity to share knowledge, celebrate achievements, and plan for future action.

The results of the UWSF will be shared with the community after the final report is developed.

The Urban Water Stewardship Framework's objective is to contribute meaningfully to improving urban water management practices, and in doing so, help achieve Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan targets through urban sediment and nutrient load reductions.

TRADITIONAL OWNER *values*

GHHP has previously reported on Cultural: Indigenous Cultural Heritage through a series of assessments focused on the health of culturally significant sites in the Gladstone region. As part of the GHHP Ten-Year Review, the Independent Science Panel recommended expanding this approach to develop a more meaningful and holistic representation of Traditional Owner perspectives.

This led to the creation of a new assessment component using Traditional Owner-led approach: Traditional Owner Values.

To develop this approach, GHHP has been working closely with Traditional Owners, including a workshop to facilitate deeper discussions on the GHHP Report Card.

Stay tuned for the results!

FISH HEALTH ASSESSMENT *index*

Fish are an important indicator of environmental health, as they're exposed to contaminants throughout their life cycle. In 2018, CQUniversity began monitoring fish health in Gladstone Harbour, focusing on multiple organs and tissues. This assessment helps us understand the stressors affecting fish populations in the Harbour.

CQUniversity conducted assessments in 2018, 2019, and 2020 before pausing the program due to various factors. Following the Ten-Year Review, the Independent Science Panel recommended bringing this assessment back into GHHP's monitoring program, and we're excited to restart it for the 2025 Report Card.



upcoming EVENTS

Please mark the following dates in your calendars

GHHP AND PARTNERS SEAGRASS FLOWER *collection*

November 3

Join CQUniversity's CMERC and Santos GLNG in collecting seagrass flowers to support Harbour health research. Open to all—details to come!

WHAT'S OUR *grade?*

The biennial What's Our Grade Report, facilitated by Darwinian Consulting, aims to assess the Partnership across five indicators: staff cohesiveness, science credibility, organisation resilience, stakeholder relevance, and outreach effectiveness.

The assessment surveyed individual GHHP staff members, the GHHP team as a whole, Partners, and the Host Organisation.

GHHP is delighted to announce that the Partnership has improved from a B+ in 2022, to an A- in 2024, with many indicators improving over time, particularly within Outreach Effectiveness, indicating GHHP's commitment to community and Partner engagement.

READ THE
FULL
report



2025 GLADSTONE HARBOUR REPORT CARD *launch*

November 20

Celebrate the 2025 Report Card launch with GHHP, partners, and the community. Stay tuned for event details.



OUR *partners*

The work and achievement of the Gladstone Health Harbour Partnership wouldn't be possible without the support of our partners.



Australian Government



Queensland Government



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OF MARINE SCIENCE



Consulting



CQUniversity
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Gidarjil
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Gladstone Ports
Corporation

Growth, prosperity, community.



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Gladstone Healthy
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