2026 GLADSTONE HARBOUR REPORT CARD

FREQUENTLY ASKED *Questions*



WHAT IS THE GLADSTONE HEALTHY HARBOUR PARTNERSHIP (GHHP)?

GHHP is a Partnership of community and research organisations, First Nations People, industry, and all levels of government. GHHP independently reports on the health of Gladstone Harbour to inform the community about this valuable asset, and guide future monitoring through rigorous science and strong stakeholder engagement.

Established in 2013, GHHP brings together diverse expertise and perspectives to support the long-term health and management of Gladstone Harbour. Its establishment followed a period of rapid industrial development, major flood events, and a focus on the harbour's health. Today, the Partnership continues to provide an independent, whole-of-system assessment of the harbour across environment, social, cultural, and economic health, which recognises the harbour's importance to the environment, local communities, First Nations People, and the regional economy



Annually, GHHP contracts expert research organisations to undertake scientific monitoring of Gladstone Harbour, which in turn provide GHHP with independent, robust, and credible data about the health of the harbour. The data is reviewed by an Independent Science Panel before being released as an annual Gladstone Harbour Report Card and Technical Report.

GHHP's vision is for a healthy, accessible, working Gladstone Harbour.

Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership

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WHEN WAS THE DATA COLLECTED FOR THE 2026 REPORT CARD?

The 2026 Report Card showcases new monitoring data collected between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Twelve years of reporting has shown that some indicators are stable each year, therefore no new assessment of the Social and Cultural indicators was conducted in 2026, with results carried over from the last assessment in 2022. The 2026 Report Card presents a partial assessment of the Economic indicators, with new results for Economic Performance and Economic Stimulus. All Environmental Health indicators are reported using the latest available monitoring data, with the exception of Mangroves, for which results have been carried over from the 2024 assessment.

CAN THE 2026 RESULTS BE DIRECTLY COMPARED TO THE 2025 RESULTS?

As no new indicators were included and the methods employed to calculate the scores and grades did not change, the 2026 and 2025 scores are directly comparable for most of the Environmental and Economic components. The Social, and Cultural components were not assessed in 2026 and the results from the previous assessments were used.

WHAT ARE SUB-INDICATORS AND HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT TO INDICATORS?

An indicator is an aspect of a system that partially indicates the state or condition of that system. For example, 'water quality' may be used to indicate the environmental condition of Gladstone Harbour, while 'shipping activity' may be used to partially indicate the economic state of the Gladstone Harbour.

A sub-indicator is a measure or group of related measures that contribute to an indicator. For instance, the 'nutrients sub-indicator' (within water quality) is comprised of the measures 'total nitrogen', 'total phosphorus', and 'chlorophyll-a'. A complete list of the indicators can be found in the **technical report,** accessible via the QC code:



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WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT?

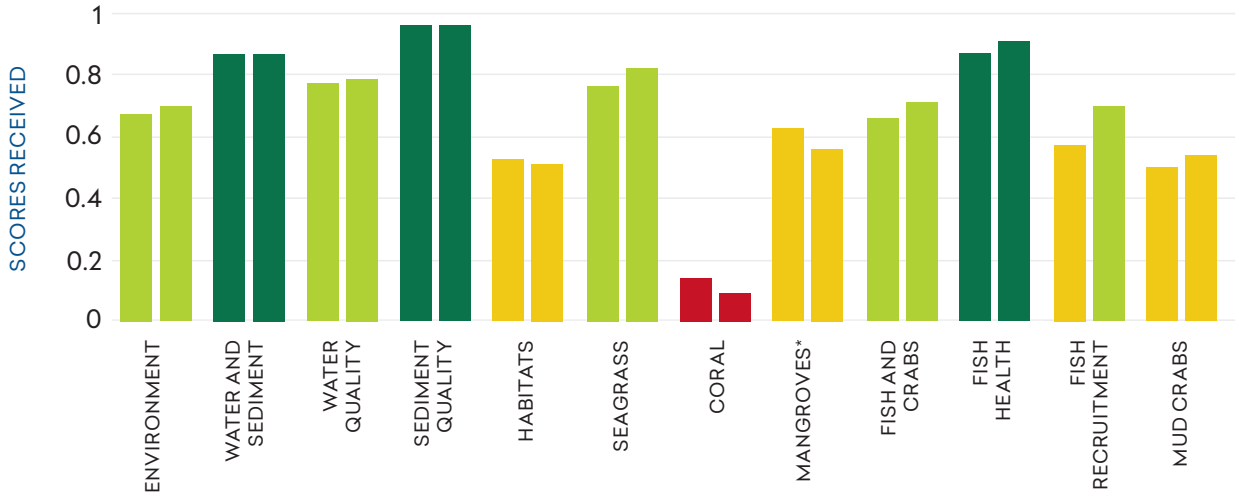
The overall Environmental grade maintained a Goog (B) grade, although the score declined slightly from 0.70 in 2025 to 0.68 in 2026. These results reflect the continued strong performance of Water and Sediment Quality across Gladstone Harbour, alongside stable Habitat condition and mixed results for Fish and Crab populations.

The Water and Sediment Quality indicator group remained one of the strongest-performing environmental indicators, achieving a Very Good (A) grade for the 10th consecutive year. While the Water quality retained a Good (B) grade, the score declined slightly from 0.79 in 2025 to 0.75 in 2026. The stable grade reflects healthy water quality conditions across the harbour. Sediment quality continued to perform exceptionally well, maintaining a Very Good (A) grade with a score of 0.96, unchanged from the previous assessment.

The Habitats indicator group retained a Satisfactory (C) grade, with an overall score similar to the previous year. Seagrass condition remained strong, achieving a Good (B) grade despite a slight decline in score from 0.81 in 2025 to 0.78 in 2026. Coral continues to received a Very Poor (E) grade, although there was a small improvement in score from the previous assessment, from 0.09 in 2025 to 0.14 in 2026.Mangrove condition was carried over from the most recent assessment and remained at a Satisfactory (C) grade.

The Fish and Crabs indicator group retained an overall Satisfactory (C) grade, while recording a slight decline in score from 0.71 in 2025 to 0.64 in 2026. Fish health received a Very Good (A) grade and a score of 0.87, while Fish recruitment downgraded to a Satisfactory (C) grade following a decline in score of 0.70 in 2025 to 0.58 in 2026. Mud crab condition remained consistent, with a similar score and Satisfactory (C) grade to 2025.

GLADSTONE HARBOUR REPORT CARD - ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS



2026 RESULTS (LEFT) COMPARED TO 2025 RESULTS (RIGHT)

A 0.85-1.00 B 0.65-0.84 C 0.50-0.64 D 0.25-0.49 E 0.00-0.24

Mangroves use the results from the 2024 assessment (right) and are compared to the previous assessment in 2019 (left).





WHICH INDICATORS CHANGED THE MOST IN 2026?

Fish recruitment returned to a Satisfactory (C) grade

Fish recruitment declined from a Good (B) grade in 2025 to a Satisfactory (C) grade in 2026, reflecting fewer juvenile fish entering the adult population. The recruitment index, based on catches of juvenile Yellowfin and Pikey Bream, measures the reproductive vigour and spatial extent of these species and is a key driver of fish population health. Despite the year-to-year decline, the 2026 result was consistent with the long-term average, indicating stable recruitment conditions across the harbour. While recruitment remains naturally variable, there is no evidence of a long-term declining trend. Strong Yellowfin Bream recruitment helped support the overall result, although Pikey Bream recruitment was lower than the previous year's peak.

Minor declines in Shipping Activity

The Shipping Activity indicator measures how effectively Gladstone Harbour's shipping capacity is being used. In 2026, it received a Good (B) grade, with a score of 0.84. The results are based on data from Gladstone Ports Corporation on cargo volumes, cargo types, and shipping origins and destinations. In 2026, the indicator decreased slightly from 0.89 in 2025, but shipping activity remained relatively high, indicating the port continued to be well utilised despite a modest reduction in activity levels.

Insights into Commercial Fishing improvements

The Commercial Fishing indicator assesses the contribution and condition of the commercial fishing industry in the Gladstone region using catch and effort information sourced from the Queensland Government's QFish database. The indicator provides an insight into the sustainability and productivity of commercial fishing activities and their contribution to the local economy. In 2026, the indicator improved to a Satisfactory (C) grade, with a substantially higher score of 0.46 than in recent years (2025: 0.19, 2024: 0.34). This improvement is likely due to the availability of more up-to-date QFish data, resulting in a more complete and representative assessment of commercial fishing activity across the region.