



Gladstone  
Healthy Harbour  
Partnership

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



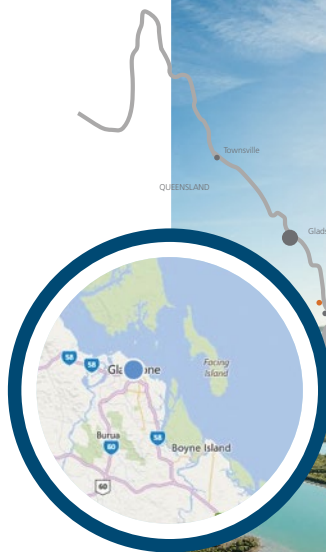
## Gladstone Harbour

Gladstone Harbour is a local icon that symbolises the beauty and resourcefulness of a sheltered deep water harbour. The harbour is treasured by the local community for its recreational value, and the significant contribution it makes to the economy.

Locals expect that Gladstone Harbour is environmentally safe and organisations and individuals within the community are responsible for its preservation.

The Port of Gladstone is Queensland's largest multi-commodity port and the world's third largest coal exporting terminal, making it not only significant to locals, but also significant nationally and internationally.

Over the last three years, coal exports in Gladstone Harbour have increased and LNG plants on Curtis Island have commenced operation.



Paul Birch,  
GHHP Chair

### A Message from the Chair

It is with great pleasure I present the second annual report for the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP). What a long way we have come in the last two years! At this time last year we were preparing to produce our pilot report card, and the subsequent response from the wider community has been fantastic. The reaction to a report card also measuring and reporting social, economic and cultural values has been well received and generated interest from many external stakeholders.

The first few years of any establishment are crucial to the ongoing success and culture of the organisation. I have been privileged to work with a group of intelligent individuals striving to achieve a common goal of clear, honest and transparent communication. Firstly, my thanks must go to a Management Committee that have given plenty of their precious time (at no charge) and ensured the sometimes restrictive timelines have been met, without compromising the quality of the information we are communicating. Secondly, to the Independent Science Panel who have worked exceptionally well together to produce clear and factual scientific data in a manner that the general community can understand. This group has been ably led by Dr Ian Poiner since inception and I sincerely thank Ian and his team for their work over the last two years. Thirdly, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation of all staff and contractors who form the backbone of GHHP. Your work has been exceptional and it has been a pleasure working with you.

Finally, my thanks go to the wider partnership members (all 26) who have consistently supported the vision of GHHP and have all committed to continuing in the partnership into 2016 and beyond. Our annual meeting will see the need to determine our future goals, choose a new Management Committee and decide on our structure for future years. We will also see the 2015 Report Card unveiled and summaries of the Science, Communication and Governance programs.

The last two years have been both interesting and rewarding. It has been a pleasure being part of the journey and I wish GHHP and the incoming committee every success in the years ahead. We have built a wonderful platform for you and the future is bright for GHHP.



Dr Ian Poiner,  
ISP Chair

### A Message from the ISP Chair

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) is informed by open, transparent and independent peer-reviewed science, through an Independent Science Panel (ISP). The fundamental role of the ISP is to assure the quality and credibility of the scientific data and information used to inform the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) report card and its technical report.

The ISP comprises experts from a range of disciplines including: ecosystem health; hydrodynamics; marine biodiversity; ecosystem modelling; environmental informatics / statistical modelling; dredge technical expertise; environmental sociology and social impact assessments; resource economics; water quality; and marine toxicology.

With the successful piloting of the report card in 2014, the focus of the ISP was to transition to an operational system with the GHHP's first report card and its associated technical report finalized for release in December 2015. Following rigorous review of the pilot year results and in consultation with the Management Committee the ISP selected the indicators to be used in the report card and finalised the analytical methods to be used in the 2015 report card. The 2015 report card will use 27 indicators based on 82 independent measures and an additional 7 indicators and 23 measures to be included in 2016. All data used to inform the indicators underwent rigorous quality control, analysis and review prior to being graded and included in the 2015 report card. The 2015 report card includes an ISP assessment of the confidence that can be placed in the data used.

Producing the scientific information contained within the 2015 report card and technical report has been a complex but rewarding process, and I would like to thank my fellow ISP members, the GHHP team, Management Committee members, partners and stakeholders for their commitment and contributions over the past twelve months.



# VISION

'Gladstone has a healthy, accessible, working harbour'

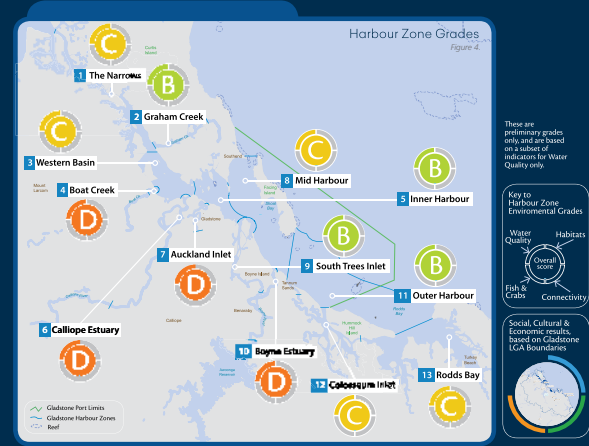
## THE ORGANISATION

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) has 26 partner organisations who meet biannually and a nominated subset of these sit on a management committee. The GHHP Management Committee includes ten representatives from federal, state and local government, industry, community, conservation, traditional owners and research. These organisations are demonstrating their long-term commitment to achieving the Partnership's vision that 'Gladstone has a healthy, working, accessible harbour'. The vision was developed by the community for the Partnership through public workshops with the Gladstone Region Environmental Advisory Network, traditional owners and all founding GHHP Partners.

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership has been formed to deliver open, honest and accountable reporting and management of the health of Gladstone Harbour based on rigorous science and strong stakeholder engagement. The Partnership's activities are informed by an Independent Science Panel (ISP) comprised of eleven experts covering aspects of harbour health and management.



## Gladstone Harbour Health: The 2014 Pilot Results



### ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

Water quality in Gladstone Harbour in between July 2013 and June 2014 was provisionally classified as satisfactory. In addition to water quality, the first complete report card in 2015 will include grades for habitat, connectivity and fish and crabs.

### SOCIAL RESULTS

The Gladstone community values its harbour very highly, with the harbour making a positive contribution towards the lifestyle and wellbeing members of the community.

### CULTURAL RESULTS

Indicators for the Cultural Health of Gladstone Harbour are not yet available and will require more development.

### ECONOMIC RESULTS

The Gladstone community derives significant economic benefit from its harbour, although there have been declines in some sectors.



## REPORTING ON HARBOUR HEALTH

The Pilot Report Card 2014 contains the initial results of the assessment of the environmental, social and economic health of the Gladstone Harbour from July 2013 to June 2014.

The pilot report card used a preliminary set of indicators and measures that will be refined further for future report cards. The environmental health (water quality) component of the Gladstone Harbour was scored a 'C', social health also received a 'C', while economic health was graded a 'B'.

The 2015 report card will be available in December when a full year of testing will be completed to measure the health of the harbour within the environmental, social, economic and cultural components. The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership will be releasing a report card annually following the release of the 2015 report card.



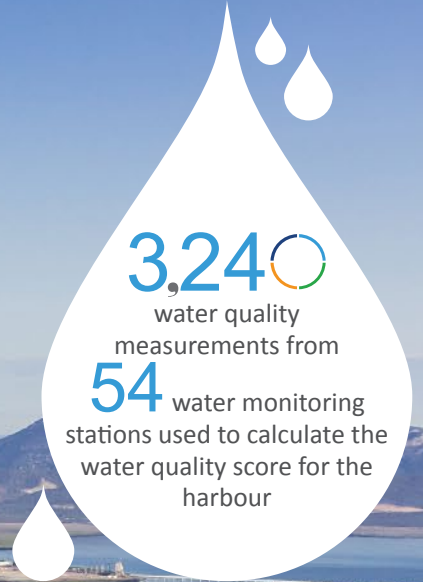
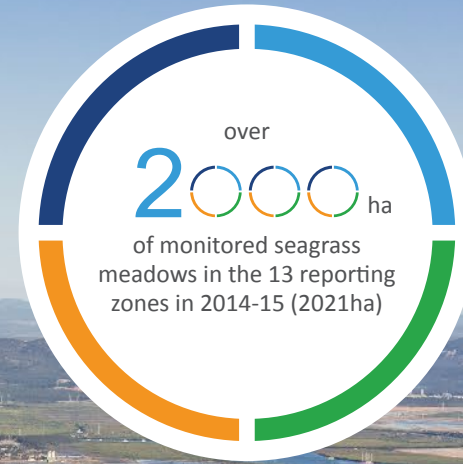
# GHHP highlights by numbers



partners have joined GHHP since its establishment

GHHP has received  
**\$3,215,200**  
in memberships

**\$2,010,571**  
the total amount of co-investment funding for GHHP Science Projects

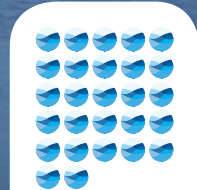
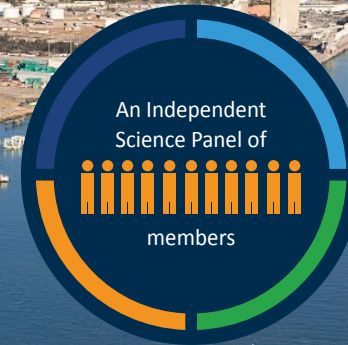


harbour zones will be reported on in the 2015 report card



media columns published

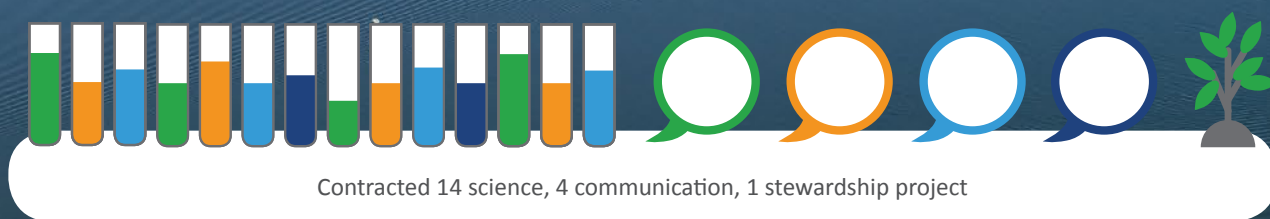
4 issues of **focus** newsletter published



indicators based on 82 measures are being used for the the 2015 report card

The location of over **26,000** 'particles' was tracked within the hydrodynamic model to produce the connectivity grades for the **2015** report card

**2,000** copies of the 2014 Pilot Report Card distributed





# Year in Review

## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnerships (GHHP's) host organisation, Fitzroy Basin Association, continued their role over the past twelve months. In 2015, GHHP gained two new partners, taking the organisation's membership total to 26. In May 2015, GHHP's Governance Charter was amended to include a clause that will require the GHHP Management Committee to provide a recommendation on the legal status of the Partnership. The recommendation will be considered when deciding whether GHHP will operate as a separate legal entity. The Queensland Government's role as a previous host of GHHP was also removed from the Governance Charter. GHHP has three full time science staff and has renewed its contract with Gladstone-based company, Amarna, to deliver the communication and media role for the organisation.

## GHHP WEBSITE

GHHP launched its website in December 2014 to coincide with the release of the pilot report card. The website includes a copy of the pilot report card, information on the Partnership, GHHP's work throughout the community, and news and events. The website also stores a plethora of additional information on the testing and monitoring of Gladstone Harbour that contributed to the grades presented in the pilot report card.

## SCIENCE PROGRAM

The GHHP Science Program consists of a range of coordinated projects designed to produce results for an annual report card for Gladstone Harbour. The program also includes other scientific projects designed to improve our understanding of harbour health. The Science Program covers four components of harbour health: environmental, social, cultural and economic. Other projects conducted in 2014-15 include the ongoing development of the Gladstone Harbour Model, a fish health workshop conducted in Gladstone and the ongoing development of the Digital Information Management System (DIMS) - expected to be fully operational in 2016. When completed, DIMS will facilitate the generation of report card grades and scores, and act as a data repository. The GHHP ePortal is now available through the GHHP website and provides easy access to a wide range of information on Gladstone Harbour to the general public.

## TESTING/MONITORING

With the transition from the development stage (Pilot Report Card) to an operational stage (production of an annual report card) a number of new monitoring programs have commenced to support the existing monitoring. Social, cultural and economic indicators, connectivity indicators, seagrass indicators and coral indicators will provide grades and scores for environmental, social, cultural and economic components for the

2015 report card. Data to inform water quality and sediment quality scores will continue to be provided through a data sharing agreement with PCIMP and an agreement was reached to include testing for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH's) in their biennial sediment monitoring. Projects are developing and have commenced to provide Indigenous cultural heritage indicators, mangroves, fish and crab indicators for future report cards. In order to ensure consistency in developing report card grades and scores, and to calculate final report card grades, the development of all projects will be supported by the statistical support program to be reviewed by the Independent Science Panel (ISP).

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

GHHP has been present at several community events over the past year including the Gladstone Harbour Festival and Gladstone's EcoFest. Since its release, the pilot report card has been circulated via a number of community activities throughout the Gladstone Region.

GHHP staff have presented displays in shopping centres, conducted focus groups and online surveys, and attended community events to solicit feedback from the community and key stakeholders. It is important that the results from the testing and monitoring of the health of the harbour are conveyed to the community in a manner that is both understandable and interesting.

## STEWARDSHIP

The management of Gladstone Harbour is the responsibility of the whole community, including our GHHP Partners. Everyone has a role to play and there are many positive examples of innovation and responsible management. Information on management efforts across different sectors will be presented in a 'Stewardship' section of the annual report card. Stewardship frameworks will be an effective means of demonstrating the good work that the port and industry do, and will identify potential areas for improvement. Stewardship frameworks will also assess the contribution made to the health of Gladstone Harbour by the port facilities and industries. These frameworks focus on measuring how effectively companies undertake a range of activities, which collectively contribute to stewardship.

## CREEK WATCH

GHHP has engaged the services of Conservation Volunteers Australia to establish a Creek Watch project in Gladstone.

Creek Watch is a community focused water quality program that aims to improve environmental outcomes for the Gladstone region while engaging and educating the broader community.

Over the last six months volunteers were engaged from the general community, school groups and other youth groups to undertake water quality testing, surveys of fish and bird species, and remove debris and weeds to improve water quality in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

## GLADSTONE HARBOUR MODEL

Once complete, the Gladstone Harbour Model will enable the GHHP Management Committee to undertake annual scenario analysis, effectively road testing management strategies. These analyses will assist the Management Committee to provide advice on how stakeholders could respond to annual report card results through providing them with a tool to explore various future management options. The model consists of three interlinked models: 1) Receiving Water Quality model, 2) Socio-Economic Model and 3) 'Atlantis' Capital Ecosystem Capital Model. A number of workshops were conducted in 2014-15 to scope potential scenarios for modeling, with water quality and sediment scenarios being tested. The complete system model will be fully operational in June 2016.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Port Curtis Harbour Watch is a school and community based project monitoring marine and estuarine water and substrate in the Gladstone Harbour. The project aims to promote stewardship and responsibility for the future health of Gladstone Harbour. A number of resources have been developed for schools and students to use in conjunction with the GHHP Report Card. There are a number of writing and reading activities that require students to analyse and interpret the environmental results from the report card. Harbour Watch has also facilitated and assisted with embedding the use of the report card in science, geography and marine science curriculum units.

Students that participate in a Harbour Watch excursion discuss the report card and the importance of water quality monitoring for our local environment. As the Harbour Watch Program grows, an increasing number of students are accessing and using the GHHP Report Card, and as a consequence increasing their knowledge of harbour health.

## E-PORTAL

Before the ISP recommended the indicators for GHHP, extensive time was spent reviewing existing data about the health of Gladstone Harbour. A project entitled 'Mapping and Synthesis of Data and Monitoring in Gladstone Harbour' was commissioned in 2013 to locate, collate and present all available information on environmental, social and economic aspects of Gladstone Harbour and develop an online data repository. This data repository stores 340 records with some relating to multiple reports/datasets and holds over 600 associated files. Data has been collected since the 1800's with data post 1950 subjected to more detailed assessment. The GHHP e-Portal was subsequently developed as an information management resource designed to centralise information about Gladstone Harbour and make it readily accessible to stakeholders and the general community.



# Statement of Income & Expenditure Report

Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.  
 (Host of the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership)  
**AGREEMENT NAME:** GHHP  
**REPORT START DATE:** 1st July 2014  
**REPORT END DATE:** 30th June 2015

**Income** \$ (GST Exclusive)

Grants Revenue	-
Carryover	2,126,709.77
Interest Revenue	59,567.46
Memberships Revenue 14/15	3,215,200.00
Memberships Revenue 15/16	1,603,200.00
Other Revenue	-

**Total Income** **7,004,617.23**

**Expenditure** \$ (GST Exclusive)

Projects	2,288,888.07
Promotions	41,658.70
Salaries and oncosts	416,005.37
Governance	95,370.49
Finance	-

**Total Expenditure** **2,841,922.63**

**Surplus / (deficit)** **4,162,754.60**

Note: This is an abridged version. A full copy of the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. Financial Statements for GHHP are available by contacting (07) 4999 2827 e: [secretariat@ghhp.org.au](mailto:secretariat@ghhp.org.au)





WANT TO KNOW MORE?  
visit our website at [www.ghhp.org.au](http://www.ghhp.org.au)



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