

Chair Report on ISP Meeting 20: 23 August 2016

The objectives of the meeting were to provide ISP members with a report on GHHP activities, and to review progress against the GHHP Science program milestones. In addition the ISP discussed issues relating to the development of Fish Recruitment, Cultural Heritage and Fish Recruitment Indicators, and broader issues relating to quality assurance and future program review.

The Science Program is on target to deliver the required science inputs into the 2016 Report Card. There have been some minor delays in some programs because of different issues, but these are all being managed and should not impact on timelines in the longer term. Into the longer term the need to plan for a review of the Report Card and ISP in 2017 was raised, with agreement that key issues and variations in methodology across elements of the Report Card should be collated. These can be handled through both internal management and review processes as well as a future external review.

Specific issues and items of note covered in the meeting included:

- Sub-indicators for Mudcrabs and Fish Health will not be included in the 2016 Report Card, but work is underway to develop them for potential inclusion in 2017.
- Progress in the development and interpretation of the Gladstone Harbour Model (Project ISP006) has been delayed a little until September – ISP members have requested some examples of outputs.
- Development of the Connectivity model is progressing with a 30:70 cost share to reflect the more routine modelling nature of the task
- The data sharing agreement with PCIMP needs some clarification – currently the data for each Report Card is ‘locked’ into historic files. The historic data is necessary underpin older versions of the report card and for future trend analysis, but this is not clearly allowed under the current agreement.
- Only the field audit of Vision Environment’s data collection (water and sediment samples) was completed in the Parallel Sampling project. The ISP recommended that this is not continued further; instead there should be a focus on understanding procedures and getting a methods document in place.
- Terra Rosa, the contractor for the Indigenous Cultural Heritage project, presented their final report. Scores have been developed for four zones in the Gladstone region (The Narrows, Facing Island, Wild Cattle Creek, Gladstone Central) across both Cultural Health and Management Strategies sub-indicators. The ISP noted that while the report was very detailed the engagement with indigenous elders had not been as extensive as planned, and recommended that:
 - An external expert be asked to provide an additional review; and

- Endorsement of the report and indicator be sought from the relevant cultural heritage representative(s) as part of the process to recommend the indicator.
- A separate team from CSIRO (led by Sean Pascoe) are being engaged to convert the Indigenous Cultural Heritage indicator into R scripts suitable for DIMS.
- Draft reports on developing a fish health indicator for the 2016 report card were discussed. The statistical approach used to handle the limited data set appears to be robust, but may require more explanation.
- Two literature reviews on fish health have been completed but do not offer a clear pathway to develop an indicator in the future. A short term task is to set a Scope of Works (SoW) for a case study to be run through the Fish Research and Development Corporation (FRDC). \$400,000 budgeted is for the case study from GHHP, with other contributions sought from FRDC. ISP recommended going back to the ISP 016b provider (Brenden Cowley) and asking for a more insightful summary about monitoring and assessment options. The ISP felt that a staged approach may be more appropriate for the project with the conceptual design of stage 1 used to design a monitoring approach.
- The ISP recommended that for followup projects for the 2017 Report Card:
 - Continue with existing providers to ensure consistency, given that providers are suitable
 - Contract earlier in 2016 or 2017 than has occurred in the past year
 - Ask providers to consider the potential for trend analysis to be included post-2017.
- The ISP will review the methodology for the Stewardship component of the Report Card. The ISP also recommended that the forthcoming report from Eco Logical Australia be sent for independent review.