

Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) Independent Science Panel (ISP)

Chair's report from ISP meeting #2 held on 29 and 30 April 2013

The GHHP ISP held its second meeting in Gladstone on the 29 April 2013 and undertook a boat tour of the harbour on the 30 April 2013 to familiarise panel members with Gladstone Harbour including its environments, industries and current and planned developments. Thank you to Central Queensland University (CQU) for hosting the meeting and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) for organising the Harbour field trip.

The ISP meeting had six objectives:

1. Review the ISP work program to be presented for endorsement to the next GHHP meeting
2. Review the progress of the Mapping and Synthesis Project
3. Scope the requirements of the modeling program to support the development and operation of the Gladstone Harbour Report Card
4. Scope the requirements for a critical review of existing report cards and their use nationally and internationally
5. Update the ISP on the GHHP process of defining what they mean by a 'healthy harbour'
6. Receiving a briefing about the activities of the Gladstone Ports Corporation Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program (ERMP).

The Panel endorsed the draft work plan prior to endorsement by the GHHP. The Panel noted the need to be explicit about how projects will contribute towards delivering a report card recommendation and its subsequent implementation. The Panel also discussed its approach to social science and economic considerations in Gladstone and agreed on the need for information on the community's perception of harbour health but noted this will need to be done in cooperation with the GREAN subcommittee. The ISP was briefed on progress of the GHHP and GREAN subcommittee towards defining a healthy harbour and agreed the ISP will need to work closely with GREAN.

Project Leader Dr. Lyndon Llewellyn provided an update on the progress of the Mapping and Synthesis Project and demonstrated several possible options for visualising priority datasets based on standardised web mapping protocols. A basic searching tool has been developed and is estimated to include about 80% of available datasets. The ISP was pleased with progress and agreed the focus of the project going forward should be synthesis and finalising the report that is due in July.

The ISP discussed the requirements of the modeling program to develop the Gladstone Harbour Model that will support the development and operation of the Gladstone Harbour Report Card. The Panel agreed on the process to finalise the scope of work for the first stage - the development of the conceptual model. The call for proposals will be released by early June. The ISP also discussed the requirements for a critical review of existing report cards and their use nationally and internationally. The call for proposals for this project will be released by late May.

The ISP agreed on its project commissioning principles including criteria for assessing proposals and potential conflict of interest with a Panel member's involvement in a GHHP ISP project. The Panel agreed a member cannot be a project leader and in principle should not be involved in a project. However in special circumstances the ISP can approve a member's involvement in a project if necessary.

On behalf of the Prof. Marnie Campbell (Chair of the Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program (ERMP) Advisory Panel), ERMP panel member Dr. Norm Duke briefed the ISP on the activities of the ERMP. The ISP discussed the potential for the ISP to either oversight or to be involved in the activities of the ERMP Advisory Panel suggested by Dr. Duke in his presentation and in a letter from GPC (letter from Peter O'Sullivan to Ian Poiner 15 April 2013). The ISP recommended that in the short term potential duplication can be avoided and opportunities for collaboration/cooperation achieved with the Chairs of the GHHP ISP, ERMP, PCIMP and DTRP teleconferencing on a four to six weekly basis. In the longer term the ISP suggested the GHHP could investigate with GPC how the ERMP and similar offset programs could contribute to achieving the goals of the GHHP.

The next meeting of the ISP will be held in Gladstone on the 18 June 2013.

Ian Poiner
Chair ISP