

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

Chair's report from ISP meeting #4 held on 20 August 2013

The objectives of the meeting were to provide ISP members with an update on GHHP activities, address review comments and amendments to the Mapping and Synthesis Report, discuss the community perception survey and a timeline for its completion and review the outcomes of the Conceptual Modelling project's asset selection workshop and finalise the schedule for the project including technical and stakeholder workshops. At the start of the meeting ISP member COI declarations were updated as required and there were no COI declarations for this meeting.

The ISP were briefed on the recent GHHP Visioning workshop (31 July 2013) and the final version of the GHHP vision statement will be used to advise the selection of assets for the ISP conceptual modelling project and to guide the development of the report card. The ISP was also briefed on the recently completed 'duplication assessment' report that reviewed potential duplication in monitoring activities likely to contribute to a report card, and also overlap in other programs. It was prepared by the ISP Chair and Science Convenor and presented to a GHHP Industry partners meeting on 16 August 2013.

The ISP discussed and agreed to the approach AIMS proposed to respond to the ISP's review of the draft Mapping and Synthesis report. The largest change recommended by the ISP was to provide a bibliographic list of the scientific literature relating to Gladstone Harbour in the report and AIMS has agreed to provide it although it was beyond the original scope of works.

Project Lead Jeffrey Dambacher briefed the ISP on the conceptual modelling project and explained that it will provide a list of 'robust indicators', meaning they will be robust to multiple impacts and sensitivities. The indicator list will need to be refined by the ISP taking into account monitoring cost and/or practicality considerations. Jeff also provided an update from the asset selection workshop held on 13 August 2013, including the approach used to extract 'topics' and 'assets' from the GHHP vision statement. The ISP discussed the draft list of eight assets produced and further discussion and finalisation of the list was agreed to occur out of session. The ISP agreed the project is progressing appropriately.

Susan Rockloff, John Rolfe and Emma McIntosh provided an update on discussions around the planned community perception survey. The ISP agreed to postpone the survey, as there was a lot more to be done before social and economic indicators could be decided on, particularly as the findings of the report card review and conceptual modelling work are likely to be important contributors. In addition, Susan Rockloff provided a general overview of the different types of survey approaches available. A work plan was proposed and endorsed by the ISP and the survey is now planned for early 2014

Six GREAN members joined the ISP for lunch and discussions focused around pre-prepared questions from GREAN concerning the use of silt curtains in dredging activities, and the effect of pH on water quality and acid sulfate soils.

The next ISP meeting is scheduled for the 15 October 2013.