

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

### **Chair's report from ISP meeting #11 held on 14-15 October 2014**

The objectives of the meeting were to provide ISP members with an update on GHHP activities; review progress against the GHHP Science Program milestones; and, progress the science program contributions to the 2014 Pilot Report Card. In addition the ISP undertook a detailed progress reviewed of the major science projects underway including: ISP005 - Social, Cultural & Economic Indicators, ISP006 - Gladstone Harbour Model, ISP007 - Connectivity Indicators, ISP008 - Statistical Pilot Project, ISP009 - Data & Information Management System and ISP011 - Seagrass Monitoring.

The Science Program is on track to deliver the required science inputs into the key GHHP outputs including the guaranteed data (and potentially some of the non-guaranteed data – social and economic components) for the 2014 Pilot Report Card. Furthermore the development of the Gladstone Harbour Model required for the first Report Card in 2015 is progressing as planned. The major science projects are on track and budget except for 'ISP008- Statistical Pilot Project' that is behind schedule due to delays in the provision of some key data sets. In discussions with the Project's project leader the Panel agreed on measures to ensure the project delivered the required information for the Pilot Report Card and its final report in March 2015.

Overall the GHHP Science Program milestones are on track. Although in consultation with the GHHP Management Committee there have been some revisions of deadlines for data agreements and contracting of projects.

At this meeting the ISP also reviewed the Pilot Report Card environment subcomponent indicators, discussed the analytical methods to be used including the grading system and finalized the outline of the Technical Report that will be released with the Pilot Report Card.

The Panel agreed on the approach to be taken to develop the Cultural Heritage component indicators for the first Report Card in 2015. A scope of works will be developed in consultation with Peter Brockhurst (Gidarjil Development Corporation and GHHP Management Committee member) to produce the GHHP cultural heritage database that will be used to develop the indicators. The Panel also reviewed planning for the GHHP/FRDC Fish Health Workshop to be held in early 2015 and the approach to be used in the Report Card for the Harbour iconic species taking into account available data.

GREAN members joined the ISP for a lunchtime discussion focus on the use of coral cores to document historical climatic events and to construct historical time series of water temperature, rates of sedimentation, and the elemental composition of Gladstone Harbour waters. The oldest corals in the Harbour are likely to be up to 100 years old but this would need to be confirmed. There was also a discussion about how the Harbour compare to other harbours in the developed world in relations to metals. There is not a lot of data but the available information indicates the Harbour had Cadmium, Copper, Nickel and Zinc concentrations that were within the range of other Australian ports, and tended to be lower than the industrialised estuary examples from Europe and the US but had relative high levels of Aluminium. GREAN members were also interested in what baseline data will be used for the social, economic and cultural components of the Report Card

The ISP acknowledged the significant amount of work the science team had completed since our last meeting, thanked them for their dedication and noted the ongoing high quality of their work. The next ISP meeting is scheduled for the 12 November 2015 in Gladstone.