

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

Chair's report from ISP meeting #12 held on 12 November 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, finalise the science program contributions to the 2014 Pilot Report Card.

The Science Program is on track to deliver the required science inputs into the key GHHP outputs including the guaranteed data (and 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. Overall the 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 finalized the environment subcomponent indicators to be used in the Pilot Report Card; confirmed the indicator scoring and grading methods; and, advised on the interpretation to be applied to the scores and grades. It also finalized the following statement to accompany the Pilot Report Card to guide the interpretation of findings and to help prevent mis-interpretation of the results.

ISP Pilot Report Card 2014 Caveats

Pilot Report Card: The first Gladstone Harbour Report Card will be released in November 2015. This Pilot Report Card has been released a year in advance, using a small subset of the data and the indicators that will be included in the first Report Card. The purpose of the Pilot Report Card is to demonstrate the structure and format that the First Report Card will take, to test the methods for analysing data and developing indicators, and to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to comment.

Limitations

1. **Data and data analysis:** Data, measures and indicators included in the pilot model are based on preliminary data analysis due to several data issues encountered, and the very short time available to generate the pilot scorecard. The scores and grades generated are indicative only, and not a definitive outcome.
2. **Methods:** The analytical methods used to calculate the first Report Card in 2015 are still under development by the ISP and Science Team and will not be finalised until March 2015. The methods used for the Pilot Report Card are robust but reflect the current state of development of the methods.
3. **Interpretation:** Great care should be taken in the interpretation of the Pilot Report Card as it was developed under very tight time frames and only includes a subset of the data and the indicators that will be used in the first Report Card in 2015.

Summary

The results of the Pilot Report Card should not be assumed to be representative of the current state of the overall health of Gladstone Harbour as defined by the GHHP Vision for the Harbour. It has been released to demonstrate the approach that is planned for the First Report Card, not as an early summary of the condition of the Gladstone Harbour.

GREAN members joined the ISP for a lunchtime discussion focus on how water and sediment quality standards are set nationally and regionally. There was a particular focus on the regional standard for aluminium, its toxicity to animals and plants, the levels of aluminium detected in the Harbour, and what is known about its source.

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 10 February 2015 in Gladstone.