

Chair Report on ISP Meeting 21: 1 November 2016

The objectives of the meeting were to review all the report card results and recommend them to the Management Committee. In addition the ISP discussed issues relating to the development of Fish Recruitment and options for program review.

The Science Program is on target to deliver the required science inputs into the 2016 Report Card. There are some large changes in the Environmental and Heritage components of the Report Card from previous years, and more minor changes in the Social and Economic components. Plans for an internal review of the Report Card and ISP in 2017 were discussed, with agreement that key issues and variations in methodology across elements of the Report Card should be collated. This will provide a strong base for any future external review.

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

- Phase 1 of the Coral Coring project has nearly been completed, with early indications that sufficient coral for suitable coring had been identified.
- The new Indigenous Cultural Heritage sub-indicator within the Cultural component has been finalized, and the CSIRO team have developed the R-code and process to combine it with the Sense of Place sub-indicator into the Cultural indicator.
- The Cultural (Sense of Place), Social and Economic components have been completed for 2016, and automation into the Report Card through the development of R-scripts has been completed.
- Little change have been identified in the score and grade for **Sense of Place**. It was noted that all indicators have improved, with very little change between 2015 and 2014. However the overall grade for the Cultural component has reduced because of the addition of the new Indigenous Cultural Heritage sub-indicator.
- There has been improvement in scores of all indicators for the **Social** component, apart from one. Some minor issues with data require improvement in 2017.
- In the economic component there were some large but offsetting changes at the indicator level, so little change overall.
 - Economic performance has increased from 2015, largely because of an increase in shipping with the development of LNG exports.
 - There were large declines in commercial fishing, but this had limited impact on the overall scores because the sector has a relatively small economic contribution.
 - There was an eight point drop in 'economic stimulus' with a large drop in socio-economic status; due to a significant drop in high household income, car ownership and significant increase in children under 15.

- The score for the Environmental component has fallen in 2016 compared to 2015; this is largely because Connectivity has been shifted out of the component into background drivers, and Fish Recruitment has been added.
- The report on the new indicator for Fish Recruitment (within the Environmental Component) was reviewed with the project team. The ISP agreed that the approach taken to analyse the data and develop grades and scores was robust, but noted that the limitations of historic data.
- It was decided not to apply any weightings to scores within the Environmental Component for the following reasons
 - Non weighted scores in 2016 will allow easy comparison with 2015 scores,
 - The justification for the weighting is difficult to explain,
 - A clear criteria needs to do be developed before weightings are applied
- Confidence ratings were set: The ISP agreed that the confidence of the social component 2016 is rated high, the confidence rating of the environmental component is moderate, the confidence rating of the economic component is high and the confidence of the cultural component is moderate
- Discussions have been held with PCIMP to update the data sharing agreement to account for the updated protocol to transfer PCIMP data to GHHP and to account for data for each Report Card being 'locked' into historic files. Agreement on changes was reached, and now needs to be formalised.
- Development of new sub-indicators for Fish Health, Mudcrabs and Mangroves is continuing to be progressed.
- The ISP recommended that the methodology for the Stewardship program be reviewed.
- The ISP recommended that an internal review of the Report Card and processes be undertaken in the first half of 2017.