

Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership



Stage one framework

Purpose of this document

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership stage one framework outlines the purpose, opportunities, risks, operational responsibilities and initial workplan of the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP).

This framework outlines areas of agreement subsequent to the in-principle support from the inaugural meeting (28 August 2012) of prospective Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership Partners and assists to ensure all prospective partners have a common understanding on all aspects of the proposed partnership.

This document is not legally binding and precedes a formal arrangement (such as a Participants Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding). This document will be in place until a formal arrangement is agreed upon. Immediately following the execution of a formal arrangement, the stage one framework will be reviewed and updated to reflect the purpose, opportunities, risks, operations responsibilities and work plan for stage two.

A data sharing agreement will be considered and drafted separately to this framework.

Parties that endorse this document will be considered part of the partnership until the formal arrangements have been finalised.

All parties have the option to exit the stage one framework with a letter to the Secretariat which will be effective immediately.

This document also outlines the agreed steps and actions for Stage one of the partnership and intends to cover the period of work including:

- mapping of existing monitoring and research
- an initial program design for a Gladstone Healthy Harbour report card which includes providing recommendations on
 - integrating existing activities
 - removing duplication and filling gaps
 - what information is required and how it may be communicated.

Purpose of GHHP

Without devolving any partner's individual responsibilities, GHHP is a forum to bring together parties (including community, industry, science, government, statutory bodies and management) to maintain, and where necessary, improve the health of Gladstone Harbour. The guiding principles of the Partnership are open, honest and accountable management, annual reporting of the health of the Gladstone Harbour and management recommendations and action based on rigorous science and strong stakeholder engagement to ensure the ongoing and continuous improvement in the health of Gladstone Harbour.

Defining a 'healthy' Gladstone Harbour is one of the Partnership's first tasks.

Objectives of GHHP

GHHP aims to bring opportunities to partners such as:

- efficient, cost effective, coordinated and targeted monitoring and research activities focused on GHHP needs and priorities, and management recommendations and action that removes any monitoring and research duplication
- including existing industry and research effort to maximise and optimise value of investment (both time and money) while improving the quality of the data generated from monitoring and research programs (i.e. pooling resources to look at the big picture)
- facilitating cooperation between industry, research, community and government to pool the best possible expertise to understand and manage Gladstone Harbour health
- improving community engagement, communication and confidence in the health and management of the harbour by providing synthesised information in easy to understand language, but without loss of scientific rigor
- contributing to the development of Port Curtis (and/or appropriate sub-components thereof) specific environmental values, water quality objectives and trigger values
- co-ordinating science and science communication products
- informing decision-making for users of the Gladstone Harbour
- assisting to secure the region's tourism and marine recreation industries.

Risks of GHHP

Some risks associated with GHHP that will need to be managed by the partnership include:

- scope creep such as:
 - differing views on the scope leading to delays and withdrawal of members
 - specific agendas side-tracking goals of the partnership leading to delays
- scope is not broad enough to address community concerns
- scope is so broad that individual, specific issues get lost in the bigger picture
- expectations of all involved not managed properly which may lead to a mismatch between what people are anticipating and what is delivered
- science communication not clear so the broader community is not well engaged and sceptical of the science and information provided
- lack of or differing levels of commitment (over time and between partners) to co-ordinate monitoring and research leading to prolonged or indefinite inaction
- funding arrangements being insufficient or not used effectively in the start up and/or operational phase of the partnership
- perception by media that GHHP is a PR exercise and not an action orientated partnership.

GHHP products

GHHP will deliver, or assist to deliver outcomes using science, communication and engagement techniques and tools, including:

- a Gladstone Healthy Harbour Report Card that communicates the health of the Gladstone Harbour to the broader Gladstone community and recommends management actions (Stage 2).

- Port Curtis (and/or appropriate sub-components thereof) specific environmental values, water quality objectives and trigger values.
- develop and define the GHHP vision for Gladstone Harbour – what is a healthy harbour? (Complete)
- community engagement and education programs that enhance community capacity to engage, understand and communicate about the health of the Gladstone Harbour.
- other science communication products as required.
- mapping of existing monitoring and research programs in Gladstone Harbour. (Complete)
- conceptual models of Gladstone Harbour.
- program design that integrates existing monitoring, outlines how integration will occur and what is required for a report card.

GHHP preferred future and success factors

GHHP's preferred future is when community, industry, science and management stakeholders all hold a shared commitment to a healthy harbour that is underpinned by rigorous science and community engagement. Specifically, this will be achieved if:

- an adaptive environmental management framework underpins decisions relating to activities in and around the harbour.
- monitoring and research duplication does not exist and monitoring and research is conducted in the most efficient way possible.
- investment in monitoring, research and management is better targeted at actions that see real results.
- management concerns are communicated as circumstances arise to parties responsible and the partnership assists with effective community communication around any said issues.
- coordinated science messages are continually and consistently delivered to the Gladstone community and on-the-ground decision makers about the activities of the partnership and the health of the harbour.

GHHP will know if it has been successful if:

- effective management results are maintained, and if necessary, improved harbour health.
- better baseline scientific information for environmental events is available.
- the community is better informed, can easily access information and understand how the Gladstone Harbour is being monitored and managed.
- internal and external expectations have been identified, managed and addressed.

GHHP partner responsibilities

In order for GHHP to operate effectively, partners commit to:

- genuinely work together and engage with other GHHP partners, the science panel and the Gladstone Region Environmental Advisory Network (GREAN) in a positive and proactive manner.
- preparation for, attendance at and contribution to GHHP meetings: at least twice per year.
- report back to own organisations about partnership progress and actions.

- take into account science panel and community advisory recommendations, requests and concerns.
- progress actions from partnership meetings relevant to their own organisation.
- raise concerns (if any) immediately as they arise with the Secretariat.
- provide data and information to the Science Panel, subject to commercial-in-confidence and a 'to be negotiated' data sharing agreement.
- make decisions using an evidence based approach.
- developing and communicating a plan of action to address any urgent concerns or hazards identified by the science panel.

GHHP independent science panel responsibilities

In order for GHHP to operate effectively, the independent science panel (ISP) should operate within the scope of the ISP Terms of Reference. This will include things such as:

- genuinely engaging with GHHP and GREAN in a positive and proactive manner
- undertaking the mapping of existing monitoring, research and mitigation programs in the Gladstone Harbour (Complete)
- recommending a program design that integrates existing monitoring and outlines how integration will occur and what is required, including benefits and limitations
- identifying practices that have been scientifically shown to present a significant hazard to the Gladstone Harbour ecosystem and potential actions to overcome the hazards
- capitalising on existing work by recommending science, monitoring, modelling and management actions to reduce duplication and address gaps
- integrate reliable and relevant local knowledge (such as historical information) from the local community (e.g. community elders and fishermen) on harbour use and health
- demonstrating independence in form and function and is guided by and supports the Partnership.

GHHP community advisory group - Gladstone Region Environmental Advisory Network (GREAN) Responsibilities

In order for GHHP to operate effectively, GREAN should:

- genuinely engage with the ISP and GHHP in a positive and proactive manner
- provide a conduit between GHHP and the Gladstone community
- draw GHHP attention to community concerns
- provide advice regarding community education, awareness and understanding
- identify and convey to the partnership community concerns about current or proposed activities
- attend science workshops hosted by the ISP
- participate in report card development
- send delegates to Partnership meetings as required in the governance charter.

GHHP will work with GREAN to ensure that all community groups are represented through GREAN or directly on the partnership.

GHHP secretariat responsibilities

Stage one secretariat support will be provided by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. The secretariat will:

- organise meeting venues, catering, presentations, agendas and minutes
- collate and report on partners' views
- manage GHHP information
- follow up agreed actions to ensure partners obligations are met.

GHHP stage one work plan

Action	Who is responsible	Indicative Timeframe	Status
<u>Stage one</u>			
Determine the partnership's operating mechanisms for Stage one	Partnership	September - November 2012	Complete
Determine how the community will be authentically involved on an on-going basis	Partnership	October - November 2012	Complete
Appoint the independent chair of the Science Panel	Representatives of industry, government and research	November 2012	Complete
Endorse stage one framework	Partnership	November - December 2012	Complete
Endorse the Science Panel Terms of Reference	Partnership	November - December 2012	Complete
Appoint Science Panel members	Science Panel Chair	December - February 2013	Complete
Determine what questions the community would like answered regarding the environmental health of Gladstone Harbour	Community	February - March 2013 e.g. environmental values workshop	Complete
Define 'healthy' Gladstone Harbour	Partnership and community	March 2013	Complete
Hold science and stakeholder workshops to inform mapping exercise and program design	Science Panel	February – May 2013	Complete
Develop and begin implementation of a communication strategy that includes: - Corporate GHHP communication - Science communication - Community engagement The communication strategies will result in an online presence and articles in both the Observer and Queensland Telegraph.	Partnership, Science Panel and Community	February - June 2013	Complete
GHHP meeting 3	Partnership	March 2013	Complete
Draft and finalise Data Sharing Agreement for Stage one	Partnership	January - March 2013	Action outlined in MOU
Assess the existing programs to identify any duplication, any gaps and the opportunities for integration	Science Panel*	March – April 2013	Complete

Action	Who is responsible	Indicative Timeframe	Status
Commence design of a robust, integrated water quality and ecosystem health monitoring program, which aligns current efforts	Science Panel*	May - September 2013	Commenced. Due 31 December 2013
GHHP meeting 4	Partnership	June 2013	Complete
Consider the integrated water quality and ecosystem health monitoring program designed by the science panel to reduce duplication and address any gaps identified.	Partnership	June - August 2013	Following recommendation from ISP due 31 December 2013
Develop a formal agreement for Stage two that includes funding models	Partnership	July - September 2013	Currently drafting. Due for completion on 6 November 2013
GHHP meeting 5	The Partnership with Science Panel Chair and community representation	September 2013	Complete
Formal agreement finalisation	Partnership	September 2013	Due for completion on 6 November 2013
Stage two			
Implement agreed actions regarding the integrated water quality and ecosystem health monitoring program designed by the science panel to reduce duplication and address any gaps identified.	Individual partners	TBC	
Publish the inaugural Gladstone Healthy Harbour Report Card	Partnership	TBC	

* Once the science panel has been established, requests for endorsing alterations of the science panel workplan tasks may be made to the partnership to align with the final Terms of Reference

GHHP structure

