



**GLADSTONE**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CIVIC CENTRE  
101 GOONDOON STREET, GLADSTONE**

**On Tuesday 6 February 2024**

**Commencing at 9.00am**

**Leisa Dowling  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## Table of Contents

ITEM	PAGE
G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....	3
G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE .....	4
G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS .....	4
<b>G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 16 JANUARY 2024 .....	6
G/2.2. CONFIRMATION OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 23 JANUARY 2024.....	7
<b>G/3. DEPUTATIONS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
G/4.1. 2023/24 OPERATIONAL PLAN - QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE REPORT.....	9
G/4.2. AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES - 6 DECEMBER 2023.....	10
<b>G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>G/6. URGENT BUSINESS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS .....</b>	<b>12</b>

**Elected Members**

Councillor - Mayor M J Burnett  
Councillor G G Churchill  
Councillor K Goodluck (via teams)  
Councillor R A Hansen  
Councillor D V O'Grady  
Councillor C A Trevor  
Councillor N Muszkat  
Councillor C Cameron  
Councillor D Branthwaite

**Officers**

Mrs L Dowling (Chief Executive Officer)  
Mrs R Millett (Executive Secretary)  
Mrs T Whalley (Manager Governance and Risk)  
Mr M Holmes (General Manager Finance Governance and Risk)  
Ms C Quinn (General Manager People and Strategy)  
Ms K Lee (General Manager Community and Lifestyle) (via teams)  
Mr J Tumbers (General Manager Operations)  
Mr M Francis (General Manager Assets and Environment)  
Mr R Huth (General Manager Customer Experience)  
Ms K Marxsen (Manager Strategy and Improvement)  
Ms T Pearce (Business Admin trainee)

**G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

### **G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE**

Councillor Desley O'Grady mentioned the passing of Thelma May Streeter (nee Small) from Calliope (06/10/1936 - 04/01/2024). There were five generations of Thelma's family educated at Calliope State School from when it first opened in 1872. Thelma loved school and all she had to do was walk across the railway line and she was there. She worked hard and passed her scholarship examination however her parents did not have the money for her to go further. Two weeks after her 21st birthday, Thelma married Claude in Gladstone and they honeymooned in a borrowed rickety caravan, travelling up the coast to Cairns.

Living in Calliope, they had a busy life involved with the business and the school. Thelma was in the background working with Claude with his involvement in establishing and maintaining the Calliope Gold Club, now known as the Calliope Country Club. This went on for 23 years. Thelma did try hitting that little white ball around but it was just not her thing.

Thirty years ago, Thelma was one of the founding members that established the Calliope Central Bowls Club, and helping Claude, was instrumental in its successful operations in the earlier years. Thelma was relentless in her volunteering in all areas but especially in the kitchen where she, with help from her family, cooked meals every Saturday night. She would always have a steamed pudding to go with the meals. When the poker machines were installed, Thelma put the first coin in and continued to indulge in the occasional flutter. She was awarded Life Membership in 2012 for her services to the Club.

Thelma had five girls and one boy. Carol and Kym were born whilst they first lived in Gladstone. Robyn, Glenda and Helen arrived when living in Bloomfield Street in Calliope and finally, the much-awaited boy arrived when Thelma was 40 and living at "White Hill". Geoffrey completed the family of six children. Claude and Thelma were blessed with 11 grandsons but only one granddaughter.

Thelma and Claude had been together for 70 years and married for 66. They have nine great grandchildren who will be told many stories of the very caring, loving, patient and selfless lady who was proud to be their Mama as well.

### **G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Nil

## G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

I would like to acknowledge our Australia Day award winners at our Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony. We welcomed 43 new Australian Citizens. Fantastic to welcome our new citizens and great to see that they have chosen the Gladstone Region as their home.

Our award winners are:

- Citizen of the Year: Ron Streeter
- Young Citizen of the Year: Abiksha Murali
- Sport and Recreation: William (Bill) Webb
- Young Peoples Sport and Recreation Award: Ethan Sharpe
- Arts and Culture Award: Ann Hooper
- Community Event Award: Gladstone Combined Services - Combined Services Gladstone Touch Football Day
- Community Volunteer Award: Josephine Meng (There was a huge list of nominees which just goes to show how many of our local community members are involved in volunteering, which is what makes our community such a great place to live. Well done to Josie and all the nominees in all of the categories.)
- Mayor's Community Champion Award: Ron and Patricia Doherty
- Mayor's Young Community Champion Award: Sidney Crawshaw

Congratulations to all of the nominees and to all of the winners of our Gladstone Region Australia Day awards.

On the 29 January 2024 we welcomed our new 2024 apprentices and trainees. 22 new trainees and apprentices which brings the total to about 100 since 2019. It is fantastic to see our Council training the next generation and retraining some of our existing staff and older generation as well. Allowing them the opportunity to upskill with our trainees and apprenticeship program. It is a fantastic program. I'm proud that our Council has ramped up our involvement in training our apprentices and trainees.

Last night, we welcomed our new Youth Council. We had a meet and greet out the front of the Council Chambers. We have 9 new members and 2 returning members to our Youth Council. I'm looking forward to seeing the information and recommendations that comes back through our Youth Council over the next 12 months.

## **G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 16 JANUARY 2024**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Prepared By:** Executive Secretary

**Council Meeting Date:** 6 February 2024

**File Ref:** CM7.2

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#### **Purpose:**

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 16 January 2024.

#### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 16 January 2024 be confirmed.

#### **GM/24/5157 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Branthwaite

Seconded Cr Cameron

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**G/2.2. CONFIRMATION OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 23 JANUARY 2024**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Prepared By:** Executive Secretary

**Council Meeting Date:** 6 February 2024

**File Ref:** CM7.2

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**Purpose:**

Confirmation of the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 23 January 2024.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 23 January 2024 be confirmed.

**GM/24/5158 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Churchill  
Seconded Cr Hansen

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**G/3. DEPUTATIONS**

Nil



## **G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

### **G/4.1. 2023/24 OPERATIONAL PLAN - QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager People and Strategy

**Prepared By:** Corporate Planning Specialist

**Council Meeting Date:** 6 February 2023

**File Ref:** CM14.2

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**Purpose:**

To present Council with the second quarterly performance report for the 2023/24 Operational Plan.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council endorse the 2023/24 Operational Plan – Quarter Two Performance Report

**GM/24/5159 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Churchill  
Seconded Cr O'Grady

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**G/4.2. AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES - 6 DECEMBER 2023**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

**Prepared By:** Ethics Integrity and Audit Specialist

**Council Meeting Date:** 6 February 2024

**File Ref:** CM26.2

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**Purpose:**

To present a report about the matters presented at the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 6 December 2023, pursuant to section 211 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

The Council receive the minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 6 December 2023.

**GM/24/5160 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Cameron  
Seconded Cr Branthwaite

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

## G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Glenn Churchill mentioned that last week, Councillor Kahn Goodluck and he attended the launch of the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) 2023 Report Card. Cr Churchill tabled a copy of the of the GHHP 2023 Report Card (refer addendum 1). Cr Churchill acknowledged that Councillor Darryl Branthwaite is very proactive in the GHHP and that Council is a very strong supporter and partner as well.

Cr Churchill noted that there has been some terrific improvements in areas including social, cultural and economic. Cr Churchill mentioned that continual work in progress highlighting that the region is waiting for the next wave of economic stimulus and the impacts that can have, not only on our services and infrastructure, but also our community and our harbour.

Cr Branthwaite acknowledged that he has been heavily involved in the GHHP over the past few years and highlighted the involvement of the industries and stakeholders. Cr Branthwaite noted that it is a very good report and that there is one aspect where the environmental results weren't what they should be and there are minute changes that have allowed that to drop away. Cr Branthwaite highlighted the studies that are being undertaken by the Gladstone Ports Corporation and Central Queensland University (CQU) to do with the growth of coral inside the harbour. Cr Branthwaite mentioned that the results demonstrated that the Gladstone Harbour is very much loved with lots of people watching and taking care of it. Cr Branthwaite advised that the GHHP 2023 Report is available online at the GHHP website.

Cr Hansen provided feedback from a representative from the Brisbane office for Shell who was impressed on how clean the water was.

Councillor Desley O'Grady highlighted the huge impact to the North Burnett and Gladstone Regional Councils that the Boyne Burnett Inland Rail Trail (BBIRT) has. Cr O'Grady highlighted the Boyne Burnett Inland Rail Trail Weekend, an upcoming event over the May long weekend (3 May - 6 May 2024), which is the collaboration between Bicycle Queensland and BBIRT. Cr O'Grady noted that a grant has been provided by the State Government to assist with the event and that there are over 130 people already registered. Cr O'Grady encouraged anyone that is interested to go to the Bicycle Queensland website for further details and bookings. Cr O'Grady noted that it is amazing what a little idea 10 years ago has become and that what the rail trail has done for the communities is very exciting. Cr O'Grady further noted that there will be other events on the rail trail coming up.

Councillor Chris Trevor mentioned that it was great to attend the meet and greet with the new Youth Council noting that they were an impressive group of young people. Cr Trevor noted that he was impressed with the talent and ability of the Youth Council and encouraged the new Council to embrace their youthfulness, drive, enthusiasm, dedication and commitment and listen to their thoughts, ideas and values. Cr Trevor further mentioned that he is confident that the youth of this community will be well represented by the Youth Council and confident that this team will be known as the dream team.

Councillor Natalia Muszkat mentioned that she has been enjoying watching the schools recognise their young people and how they are achieving their goals. Cr Muszkat noted that it is especially important in a time where young people aren't looked at with the best light, it is great to see that there are so many great young people in our community and that the schools are working hard to ensure those are recognised for their hard work.

Councillor Kahn Goodluck reflected on Cr Trevor's comments and mentioned the inspiration he received from young people. Cr Goodluck highlighted that it was good to see the great talent in our up and coming young people.

**G/6. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil

**G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Nil

The Mayor mentioned that the Agnes Water Blues Roots and Rock Festival is on Friday 16 February until Sunday 18 February 2024 with tickets available now.

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting.

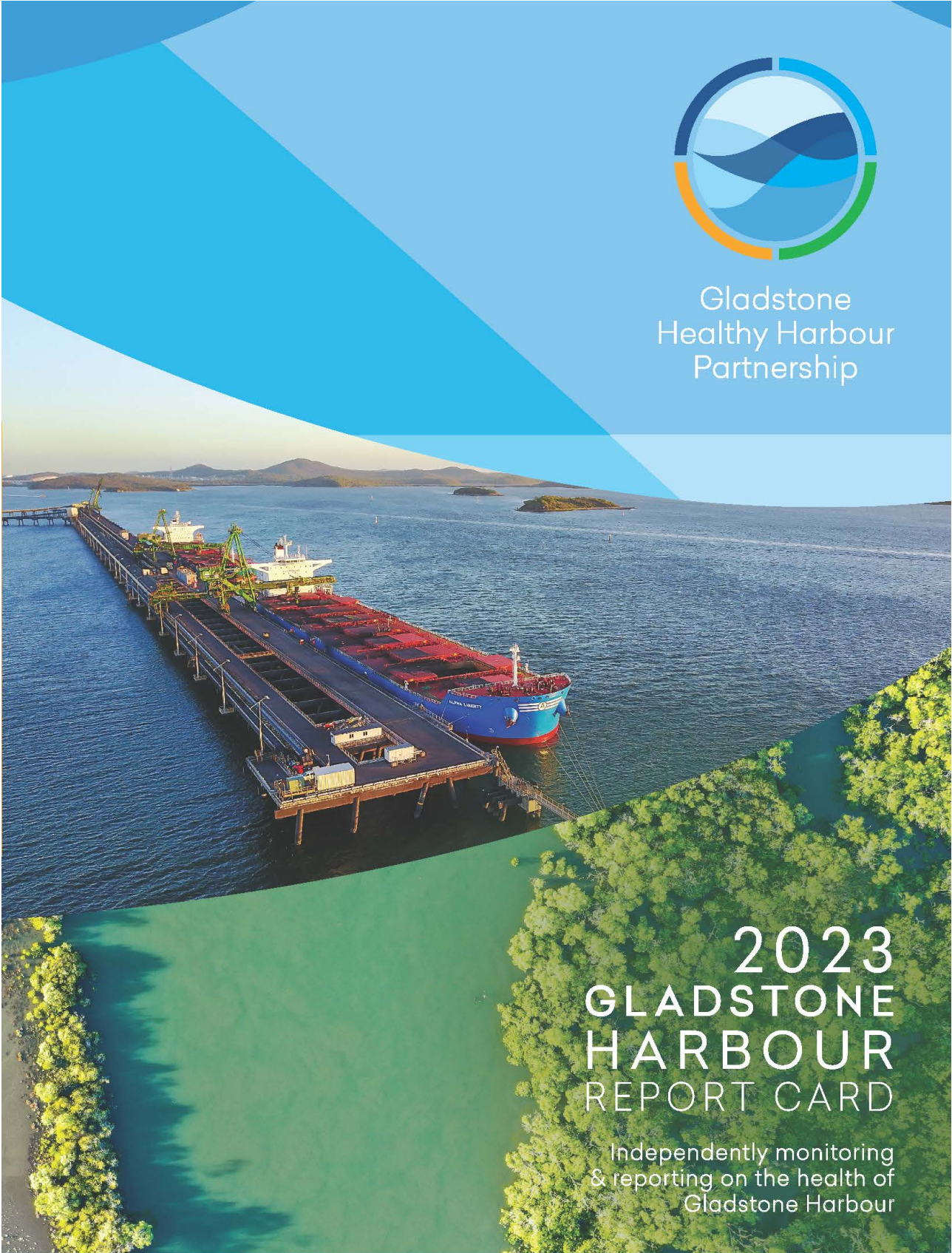
**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.00am.**

ATTACHMENTS

Addendum 1



Gladstone  
Healthy Harbour  
Partnership



2023  
GLADSTONE  
HARBOUR  
REPORT CARD

Independently monitoring  
& reporting on the health of  
Gladstone Harbour

*Healthy Harbour, Healthy Future*

# REPORT CARD MONITORING

The 2023 report card showcases monitoring data collected between July 2022 and June 2023. Nine years of reporting has shown some indicators are stable each year, therefore there was no new assessment of the Social and Cultural indicators in 2023; results are carried over from the 2022 report card. The 2023 report card presents a partial assessment of the Economic indicators, with Economic Value results repeated from the 2022 report card. Results from the Environment indicators Mangroves and Fish Health Assessment Index have carried over from 2019 and 2021, respectively. The 2024 report card will present new Mangroves results.

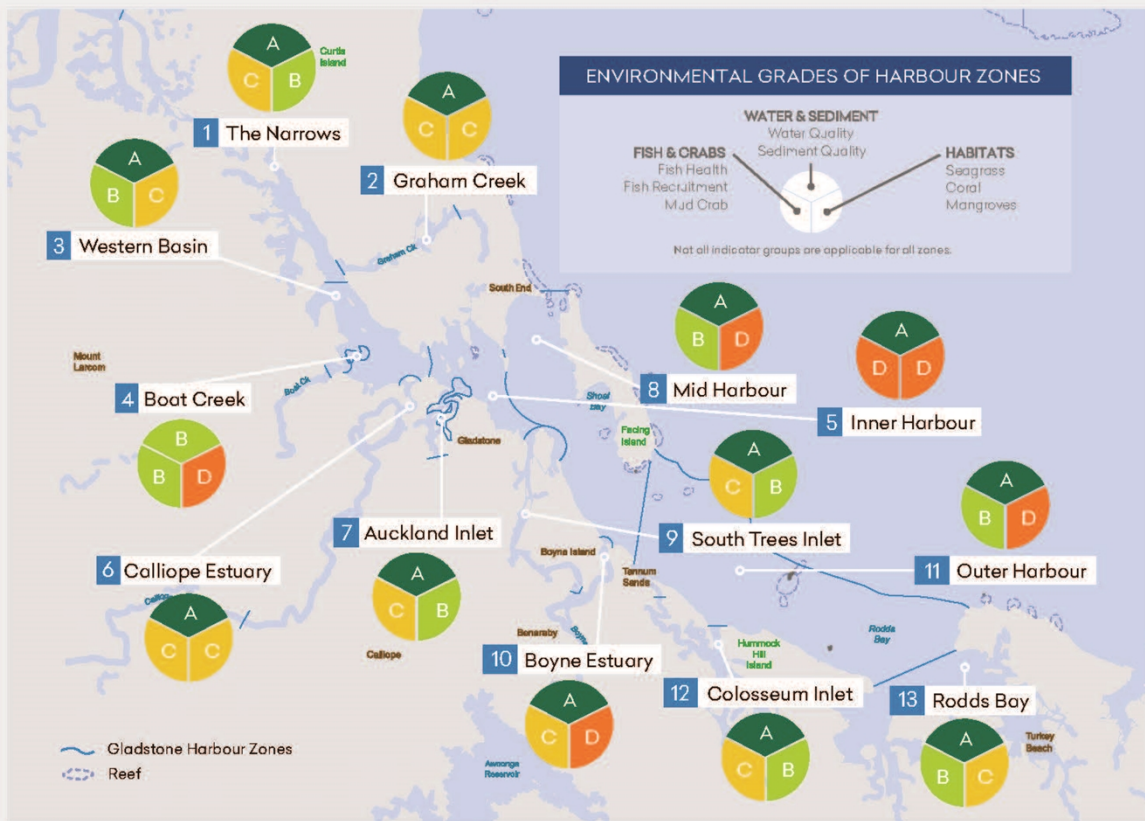
ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

ENVIRONMENTAL	SCORE	GRADE
<b>OVERALL ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>HABITATS</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>FISH AND CRABS</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>C</b>

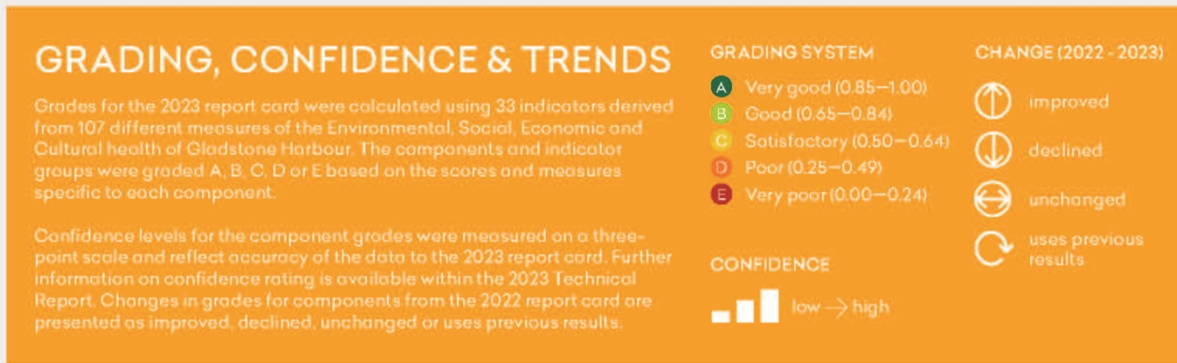
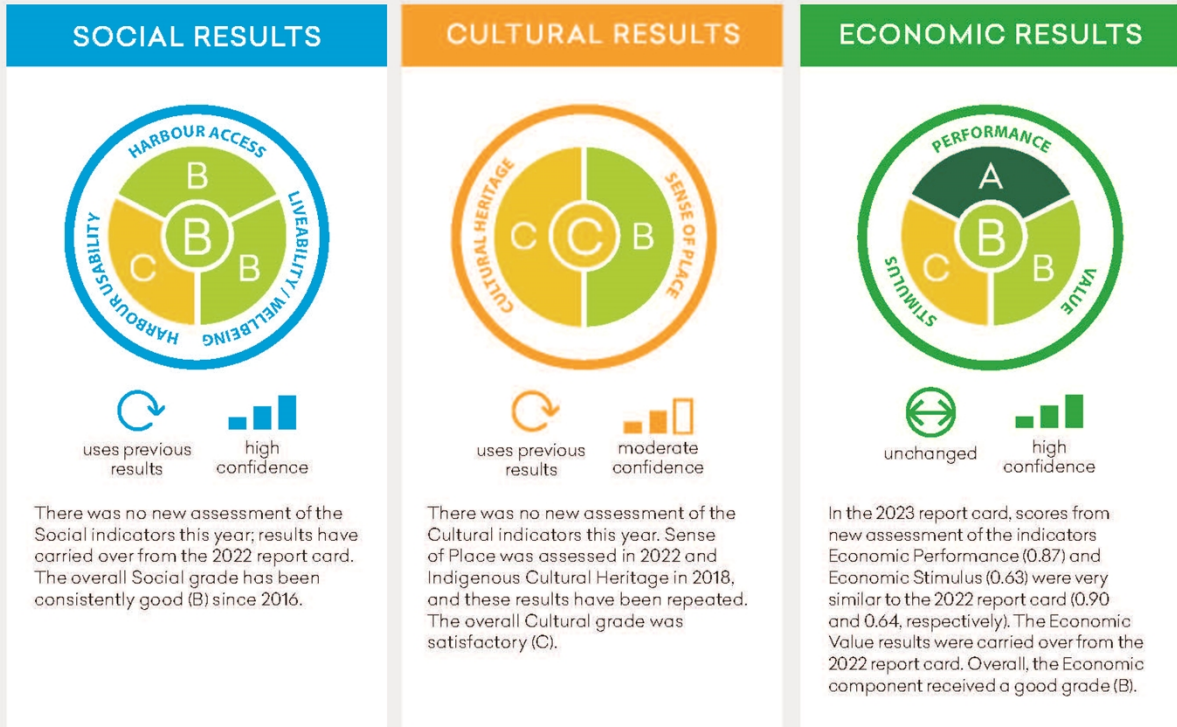
- Water Quality 0.81 B
- Sediment Quality 0.97 A
- Seagrass 0.58 C
- Coral 0.14 E
- Mangroves 0.57 C
- Fish Health 0.81 B
- Fish Recruitment 0.47 D
- Mud Crab 0.51 C

In 2023 the overall Environmental grade was satisfactory (C). Water and sediment quality score (0.89) remained high and received a very good grade (A), consistent with the 2022 report card results. The overall grade for the Habitats indicator group was poor (D). This was largely due to a very low Coral score (0.14), similar to previous years. Compared to the 2022 report card Seagrass scores (0.58) declined and received a satisfactory grade (C). Mangroves were not assessed in 2023 and the scores are carried over from 2019.

The overall grade for the Fish and Crabs was satisfactory (C). Compared to the 2022 report card the Fish Health score remained consistently high (0.81) while the Fish Recruitment score declined (0.47) and the Mud Crabs score increased (0.51), resulting in an improved grade of satisfactory (C).



For more detailed information see Technical Report 2023 and Fact Sheets available at [www.ghhp.org.au](http://www.ghhp.org.au)



## URBAN WATER STEWARDSHIP FRAMEWORK

Urban water management activities were assessed across three primary groups: Activities that may contribute to diffuse pollution associated with **Developing Urban** areas and **Established Urban** areas and activities that may contribute to **Point Source** pollution (associated with sewage treatment and sewer network management).

Based on the Queensland Government’s Urban Water Stewardship Framework assessment process, Gladstone Regional Council’s overall level of urban water management practice was graded satisfactory (C), with all three framework components receiving a satisfactory grade (C). This represents a level of practice that is in line with the current minimum standards. Notably, the planning and governance of Developing Urban and monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and improvement of Point Source are currently performed in line with best practice.



- Planning & Governance
  - Infrastructure Management & Maintenance
  - Social Approaches
  - Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting & Improvement
- A** Above best practice
  - B** Current best practice
  - C** Current minimum standard
  - D** Superseded or out of date standard

## HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023 Gladstone Harbour Report Card had several noteworthy highlights:



Water and Sediment quality received a very good grade (A) for the seventh year in a row. Sediment quality has maintained a very good grade (A) for nine consecutive years since it was first monitored in 2015.



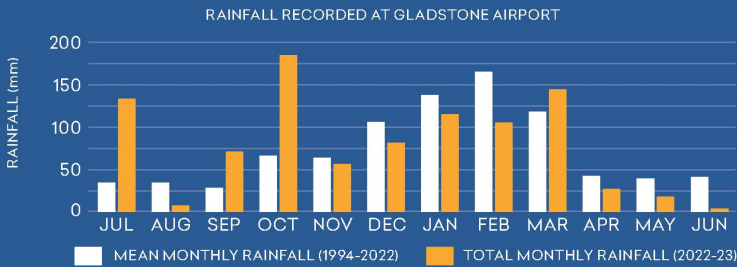
The overall grade for Mud Crabs improved to satisfactory (C), after five consecutive years receiving a poor grade (D). Across six zones monitored for Mud Crabs there was low prevalence of rust legions (scores  $\geq 0.85$ ) and three zones recorded good or very good scores ( $\geq 0.64$ ) for sex ratio.



Although the overall Seagrass grade declined in monitoring period of the 2023 report card, meadows in The Narrows and Western Basin remain in good and very good condition (scores  $\geq 0.64$ ). This is the first time seagrass in The Narrows has been in very good condition (scores  $\geq 0.85$ ) for consecutive years.

## GLADSTONE RAINFALL

Large rainfall events and extended dry seasons can impact the health of the harbour. In the monitoring period of the 2023 report card, annual rainfall at Gladstone Airport was above the long term average for the second consecutive year. Monthly rainfall in July, September and October were greater than twice the monthly average. Increase in rainfall may have contributed to the lower scores for the Water Quality sub-indicators Turbidity and Nutrients, as well as Environment indicators Seagrass and Fish Recruitment.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and sea in the Port Curtis Coral Coast region, the Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda and Bailai people and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (consisting of the following partners) independently monitors and reports on the health of Gladstone Harbour, and in doing so provides this annual Report Card.



For more information, resources and fact sheets please contact:



Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP)  
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COMPLETED: December 2023