



Gladstone Area Water Board

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MEDIA RELEASE

Successful turtle release

Ollie the juvenile green turtle will go on to swim another day after being successfully rehabilitated and released into the Boyne River this afternoon.

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) Operations and Maintenance Manager, Sarah Lunau, said Ollie had undergone two months of treatment at the organisation's Turtle Rehabilitation Facility after he was found floating and underweight at the mouth of the Boyne River in late July.

"He came to us underweight, which is not uncommon in floating turtles as they are unable to effectively dive and hunt for food," Ms Lunau said.

"The floating was likely caused by a gut infection but that has now cleared.

"During his two months of treatment he's gained 2.3kgs and has been given a clean bill of health, so today we're releasing him back into the mouth of the Boyne where he was found".

Ms Lunau said staff estimated Ollie was about eight years old and would likely live and feed in the harbour until he reaches maturity and moves out to the reef.

In conjunction with the Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC), GAWB operates a Turtle Rehabilitation Centre at its Fish Hatchery on Lord Street.

GPC Marine Scientist, Dr Megan Ellis said she that this was a happy ending for the turtle.

"The turtle is one of Gladstone's iconic Big 6, the successful rehabilitation and release of Ollie is a positive outcome," she said.

"GPC is proud to support GAWB's Turtle Rehabilitation Centre."

Since January, the GAWB Turtle Rehabilitation facility has taken six turtles into care; three have been rehabilitated and released, one is still in care and two did not survive.

If you find an injured marine animal call the RSPCA's 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625) hotline to report.

Ends.

For more information, please contact:

GAWB Communications Officer – 0438 673 776