

24 August 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

Successful Turtle Rehabilitation

A 16kg juvenile Green Sea Turtle was successfully rehabilitated and released into the Boyne River this afternoon, with help from Trinity College Outdoor Education and Biology students.

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

"The turtle was collected as part of the Department of Environment and Science's research program," Ms Lunau said.

"Because it was floating, it came to us for care and rehabilitation, fortunately, before it had an opportunity to lose a significant amount of weight, which is a common problem for floating turtles as they can't effectively dive and hunt for food."

Ms Lunau said treatment in this case was fairly straight forward, including rest, optimal water temperature and conditions and a regular feeding program; essentially, like spending two months at a spa resort for turtles.

"Following the two months of treatment, the turtle has been given a clean bill of health, so today we're releasing it back into the mouth of the Boyne where it was found," Ms Lunau said.

Ms Lunau estimated the Green Turtle was at least 12 years old and would likely live and feed in the harbour until it reaches sexual maturity which occurs at any time from 20 to 30 years of age.

This is the third turtle rehabilitated and released by GAWB in the past week, with one other Green Sea Turtle and a Hawksbill also being released.

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

During 2017-18, 12 turtles were admitted for care and treatment at the facility, including a 217kg Green Sea Turtle called Flinny, the largest captured and weighed in the Port Curtis region.

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:

Brianna Kasper (07) 4976 3054 / 0438 673 776

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