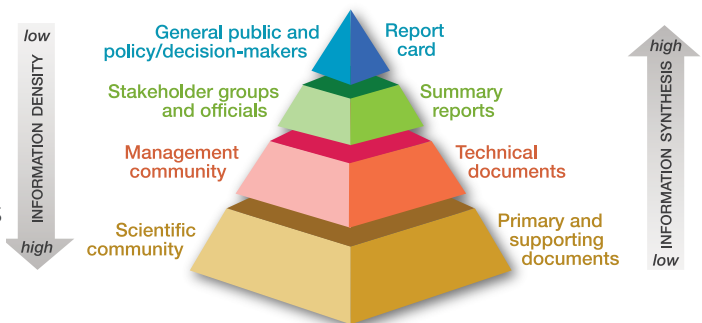


A VISION FOR AN INTEGRATED DARWIN HARBOUR REPORT CARD

This newsletter outlines a vision for a Darwin Harbour Report Card that would compare ecological, social, and/or economic information about Darwin Harbour against predefined goals or objectives. Similar to a school report card, a Darwin Harbour Report Card would provide performance-driven numeric grades that reflect the health of Darwin Harbour on a regular basis. A Darwin Harbour Report Card would join the ranks of other successful report cards such as for the Mississippi River, Great Barrier Reef, South-east Queensland, Orinoco River, and Chesapeake Bay.

Report cards sit at the top of the information pyramid

A Darwin Harbour Report Card would effectively integrate and synthesise large amounts complex information into simple scores that can be communicated to decision makers and the general public. Developing a report card facilitates interaction among people, governments, and industries who have different agendas, perspectives, and levels of awareness - often leading to a shared vision of what the future will be, and what is needed to get there.



Whole of system assessment

Report cards integrate social/cultural, economic, and ecological information in a way that acknowledges the balance between these often competing values. As such, report cards aim to assess the the three pillars of sustainable development—social, economic, and ecological values.



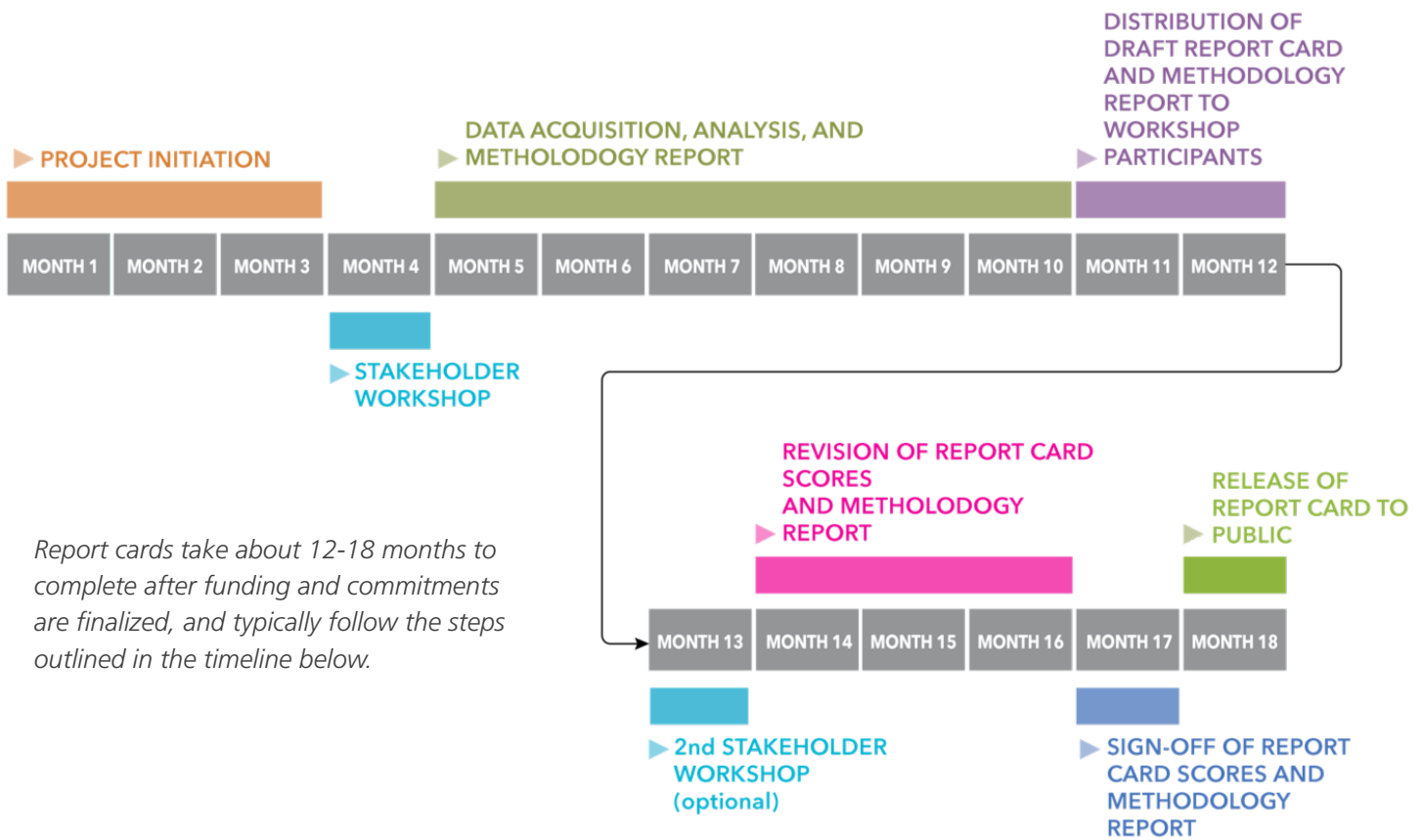
Report cards are a 5-step process

Report card development and delivery is essentially a five-step process, with the groundwork for steps 1-3 undertaken within an initial stakeholder workshop, and step 4 completed post workshop. Step 5, which is the communication strategy, is run in parallel with all steps but does come to the fore towards the end of the process at the report card release.



Steps towards developing a Darwin Harbour Report Card

The process of developing a Darwin Harbour Report Card has already begun with a workshop held in September 2017, where members of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee and other participants were introduced to the concept of report cards. Participants undertook Step 1 of the process, identifying values such as biodiversity, recreational fishing, a vibrant economy, and Indigenous livelihoods. Indicators such as tourism numbers, shipping volumes, recreational fishing, and Indigenous self-employment are examples of indicators that could be developed to report on these shared values.



The Integration and Application Network (IAN) is a dedicated group of scientists intent on solving, not just studying environmental problems. Our mission is to accomplish positive environmental change through scientific synthesis, engagement and communication. IAN inspires, manages, and produces timely syntheses and assessments on key environmental issues with ample experience working in Australia and now with local capacity based in Brisbane and Darwin.