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Corporation**

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Capricorn Yellow Chat Project

October 2025

Source: Bob Black, CQUniversity

Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) and CQUniversity (CQU) are undertaking a research project to improve the conservation of the Capricorn Yellow Chat, a critically endangered bird found only on the Capricorn Coast in Central Queensland.

Why

As a small endemic bird with a population size of approximately 250 individuals, Capricorn Yellow Chats (*Epthianura crocea macgregori*) are faced with a myriad of threats, including climate change and sea level rise, infrastructure development, invasive species, and habitat loss.

Considerable research has been conducted into the population demography, genetics, and behaviour of this species over the past 20 years by researchers at CQUniversity, however there is still much to learn about this elusive and threatened bird.

The subspecies of Yellow Chat is listed as Endangered under the *Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992* and Critically Endangered under the *Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act 1999*.

What

This project will address several research priorities identified in the [Capricorn Yellow Chat Recovery Action Plan 2023](#), including understanding the impacts of climate change and invasive species on these birds. By adopting a suite of established methodologies, researchers will quantify the impacts of rising temperatures on the behaviour of Yellow Chats. Researchers will also identify which invasive species is the biggest threat to this bird's reproductive success and survival.

Findings arising from this project will be used to develop and refine effective and targeted management practices, that will help to conserve the Capricorn Yellow Chat.



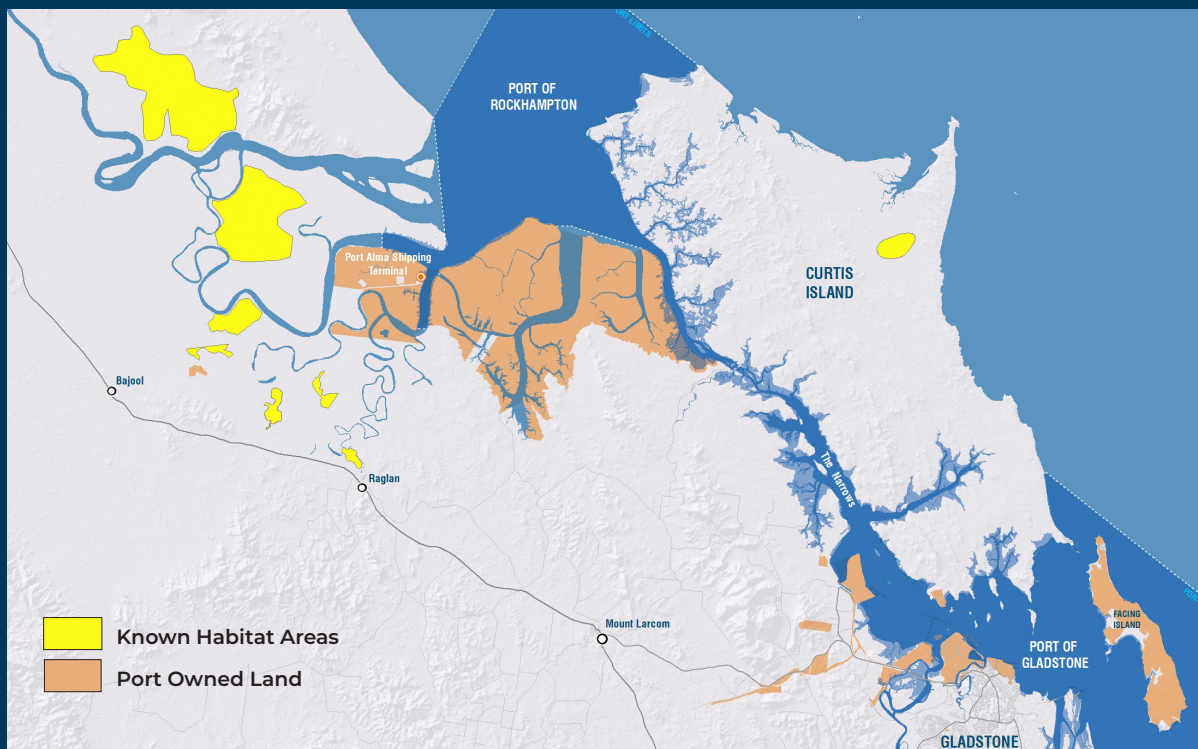
Source: Wayne Houston, CQUniversity

Where

This research will be conducted at several sites known to be home to the Capricorn Yellow Chat, including on Curtis Island and in the Fitzroy River Delta adjacent to GPC land holdings. Many of these sites are at a high risk from climate change and resulting sea-level rise.

Conserving the Capricorn Yellow Chat is a collaborative effort. Birds such as the Capricorn Yellow Chat can be key ecological indicators for environmental change. Therefore, understanding and conserving the environment for this threatened species will also strongly benefit the people who live and work in these areas.

Yellow Chat Habitat



Source: Wayne Houston, CQUniversity

Findings from this project will provide important information that can be used by stakeholders and conservationists to help protect and manage the Capricorn Yellow Chat. Like GPC landholdings, most of the Yellow Chat's habitat is on land less than five metres above sea level which provides a mutual climate resilience risk.

For more information

Visit www.gpcl.com.au/esg

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