

MEDIA RELEASE



Australian Government
Water for the Future

Riverprize 2009 now open for nominations

4 February – Community groups, catchment authorities and individuals working on restoration of rivers, lakes and wetlands across Australia and around the world are invited to submit their applications for International Riverfoundation's prestigious *Riverprize* now!

Entry to the 2009 *Riverprize* closes at 5pm AEST on 30 April 2009.

The prize pool was last year valued at A\$500,000. It remains the highest monetary award in river management, but it is the global recognition for excellence in river restoration and the accompanying opportunities for knowledge transfer and expansion of restoration activities through Riverfoundation's unique twinning program (mentoring of other rivers in need) that makes this the most valuable of water prizes worldwide.

Riverprize, now in its 11th year, is a partnership between International Riverfoundation and the International *Riversymposium* and is awarded annually with a national and international category. The National *Riverprize* is now funded by an Australian Government grant under its Water for the Future plan.

All international and national finalists are invited to present their projects at the International *Riversymposium* – the preeminent international conference on freshwater resources management held in Brisbane, Australia, in September each year. *Riversymposium* attracts more than 600 participants at all levels of river management in government, science, industry, environmental and community groups from over 50 countries.

Australian river and catchment management groups may enter both the national and international categories. International groups are only eligible for the international award. Previous entrants are encouraged to apply again.

Information and nomination guidelines for the 2009 *Riverprize* are available from International Riverfoundation's website at www.riverfoundation.org.au.

Background:

International Riverfoundation is an international NGO at the heart of a global movement driving river restoration projects worldwide. It is charged with a mission to identify and reward best practice in river management; to inform, empower and build capacity of river managers worldwide, and to educate and inspire governments, companies and individuals around the world to protect our river systems for future generations.

International Riverfoundation believes that in identifying and rewarding best practice, new information is gathered and widely disseminated for greater impact; a model is established for others to follow, and networks developed to support and provide resources where

needed. International Riverfoundation's *Riverprize* has proved to be highly effective in generating change in community-wide attitudes, behaviours and resources allocation.

Previous national winners (Australia): 2008 – Lake Macquarie, NSW; 2007 – Murray Wetlands, New South Wales; 2006 – Torbay Catchment, Western Australia 2005 – Bulimba Creek, Queensland; 2004 – Wallis Lake, New South Wales; 2003 – Hunter River, New South Wales; 2002 – Merri Creek, Victoria; 2001 – Goulburn Broken Catchment, Victoria.

Previous international winners: 2008 – St. Johns River Basin, USA; 2007 – Danube River, Europe; 2006 – Sha River, China; 2005 – Drôme River, France; 2004 – Siuslaw Basin, USA; 2003 – Alexander River, Israel, in cooperation with the Palestinians; 2002 – Mekong River, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam; 2001 – Blackwood River, Australia; 2000 – Grand River, Canada; 1999 – Mersey River, UK.

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