



BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA 3-6 SEPTEMBER 2007

## FAST FACTS (MEDIA)

### The 10<sup>th</sup> International Riversymposium & Environmental Flows Conference.

- **About the Riversymposium:**
  - The 2007 theme is Environmental Flows.
  - It will be held at Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from 3-6 September.
  - Attendees will discuss water conservation, river restoration and capacity building of the world's rivers and waterways.
  - The symposium is part of *Riverfestival* – a 10-day annual celebration of Brisbane's iconic river, its people, art, culture and environment from 31 August to 9 September, 2007.
  - Symposium is a climate neutral event and will be using renewable energy to offset the 106.5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions which will be produced.
- **Facts on Riversymposium:**
  - It is Australia's largest annual river management forum.
  - It will be held in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, a leading international conservation organisation which works to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people.
  - There will be 800 attendees from 57 countries.
  - 43 percent of attendees will be from overseas.
  - The attendees are represented from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, South America and the United States.
  - During the past nine years the symposium has brought more than 3,500 water experts to Brisbane.
- **Riversymposium Awards:**
  - National Thiers Riverprize (*Partnership between the International Riverfoundation and Riverfestival*). Prize - \$100,000 funded by the International Riverfoundation.
  - International Thiers Riverprize (*Partnership between the International Riverfoundation and Riverfestival*). Prize - \$300,000 funded by the International Riverfoundation.
  - 2007 Riversymposium Young Water Scientist Award (*Partnership with GHD and the Water Forum CRCs*). Prize - \$3,000.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



International Riversymposium is part of Riverfestival, an initiative of Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government.

- **Topics of interest:**

- **Water trading and river business** – This E-Flows economics session will look at investment opportunities in Asia's river basins, the future of environmental water trading and the economic and socio-economics impacts and cost of water flow reduction. (Monday 3 September – 10.45am – Plaza Terrace room or Monday 3 September - 1.30pm – P1).
- **South-East Queensland** – This feature session will address issues relating to South-East Queensland waterways including the environmental degradation of Moreton Bay. (Monday 3 September - 3.30pm – P1).
- **River dolphins** – This feature session will focus on the threats facing the river dolphin including the extinction of the species in the Yangtze River and the importance of the river dolphin for river basin integrity and sustainability. (Monday 3 September - 3.30pm – M3).
- **The Murray Darling Basin** – This feature session will cover an overview of water recovery, the Environmental Works and Measures Program, Environmental watering and the health of the system. (Wednesday 5 September - 10.30am – M2).
- **Water security** – This feature session will look at the Federal Government's policies and plans to secure water and protect water resources. (Monday 3 September – 1.30pm – P2).
- **Water reform** – This session will discuss how emerging water markets in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia can be regulated. (Monday 3 September – 1.30pm – M1).
- **Climate change, drought and resilience** - These sessions will focus on adaptively managing rivers for resilience and recovery during drought and how river health has been maintained during the current drought. (Tuesday 4 September – 10.30am – Plaza Terrace room).
- **Agriculture (Great Barrier Reef)** – Part of this session will ask the question if the Great Barrier Reef can be saved. It will also discuss the impact agriculture and population growth has had on the reef. (Wednesday 5 September – 1.30pm – M1).
- **Rivers and human health** – This session will discuss how water and river quality can affect the health and livelihood of different cultures. (Tuesday 4 September – 10.30am – M1).

Please contact Shari Armistead +61 7 3251 8134/ 0434 313 066 or Helen Thomas +61 7 3251 8133 / 0438 500 412 at Sequel Communications for more details or visit [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com) for more information on keynote speakers, discussion topics and programming schedule.

