



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### NSW river management projects chosen as finalists in National Thiess Riverprize

Two groundbreaking river management projects initiated by the NSW Murray Wetlands Working Group and Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee have been announced as finalists in the prestigious \$100,000 National Thiess Riverprize – the largest award in its field.

Riversymposium Chair Professor Paul Greenfield said those involved in delivering the two projects should feel proud their efforts have been recognised in this way.

“The two projects undertaken in NSW are prime examples of what the National Thiess Riverprize is about. They were chosen because they demonstrated the outcomes of committed organisations working together to ensure the survival of vital waterways,” Professor Greenfield said.

“The Murray Wetlands project was chosen for successfully delivering 75,000 megalitres of water to more than 200 wetlands covering 71,000 hectares across two catchments,” he said.

“A number of local governments, industry organisations and community groups in the Murray and Lower Murray-Darling catchments worked together to rehabilitate wetlands on private properties which are often overlooked yet are vital to landscape management.”

Professor Greenfield said the Lake Macquarie Improvement Project was chosen as a finalist for its innovative techniques to achieve significant catchment and estuary improvements to one of the state’s most important waterways.

“More than 250 Landcare groups were formed as part of the project to plant more than 500,000 trees and rehabilitate more than 28km of creek bank. In addition, more than 23ha of riverbank vegetation was restored and stormwater treatment devices significantly reduced the amount of sediments entering Lake Macquarie.”

Two other Australian finalists competing against the NSW projects are a river restoration project for the Maroochy River in south-east Queensland and a national River Recovery Programme run by Greening Australia.

Professor Greenfield said many countries across the globe are facing a water crisis.

“Now more than ever it is important to reward and promote projects addressing river and global warming issues through science, public policy and community action.”

The winner will be announced at a special ceremony on Tuesday 4 September 2007 during the 10<sup>th</sup> International Riversymposium and Environmental Flows Conference in Brisbane, 3 to 6 September.

The National Thiess Riverprize is a partnership between the International Riverfoundation and Riverfestival, an annual 10 day celebration of Brisbane’s river, people, culture and environment. The prize money is funded by IRF and the awards are managed by Riverfestival.

More information on the National Thiess Riverprizes can be found at [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com).

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**Additional information and images for National Thiess Riverprize finalists are available upon request.**

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