



MEDIA RELEASE

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Maroochy River project a finalist in the National Thiess Riverprize

A groundbreaking river management project initiated by Maroochy Shire Council has been announced as a finalist in the prestigious \$100,000 National Thiess Riverprize – the largest award in its field.

The Maroochy River Recovery Initiative was chosen as a finalist for the improvements made to water quality in the river after years of degradation exacerbated by rapid population growth and neglect.

Riversymposium Chair Professor Paul Greenfield said the Maroochy Shire Council should feel proud of its efforts.

“The three-year initiative to restore south-east Queensland’s Maroochy River is a prime example of what the National Thiess Riverprize is about. The project was chosen for working together to prove river restoration for the Maroochy River was necessary to guarantee its future survival,” Professor Greenfield said.

The Maroochy Shire Council funded a \$3.6M package of 15 complementary projects which restored natural habitat, reduced nitrogen and phosphorous, improved water quality and educated the community to gain support for the continued success of the project.

Professor Greenfield said many countries are facing a water crisis and 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.

Three other Australian finalists competing against Maroochy Shire Council are; a river restoration project for Lake Macquarie and the Murray-Darling Basin in NSW and a national River Recovery Programme run by Greening Australia.

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

The National Thiess Riverprize is a partnership between the International Riverfoundation (IRF) 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.

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

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