



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **USA Water Management Project Wins AUD\$350,000 in 2008 International Thiess Riverprize**

A groundbreaking river management project initiated by St. Johns River Water Management District in Florida has won the prestigious AUD\$350,000 International Thiess Riverprize – the world's largest award in its field and presented in partnership by International Riverfoundation (IRF) and Riverfestival.

St. Johns River Basin was announced as the winner at the International Thiess Riverprize Presentation Dinner tonight at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre during the 11<sup>th</sup> International Riversymposium (1 to 4 September 2008).

Riverprize Judging Panel Chair, Professor Paul Greenfield, said the groundbreaking results achieved by the St. Johns Water Management District were outstanding and those involved in delivering the project should be very proud of their efforts.

"The St. Johns River Basin Project is a large wetlands restoration initiative which addresses environmental degradation and flood control in the headwater region of the St. Johns River," Professor Greenfield said.

"It is one of the largest river restoration projects in the United States and has been a 30 year collaboration between State and Federal water managers.

"The Project uses innovative approaches in design and management to combine environmental benefits with flood control over 60km of river length and 60,000ha of floodplain.

"The inspirational outcomes of this initiative exemplify the spirit of the International Thiess Riverprize and it's an honor to reward a project that has done such a brilliant job taking river and water issues into its own hands and delivering such exceptional results.

"2008 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the International Thiess Riverprize and it's inspiring to see such dynamic projects across the world improving our waterways' ecological sustainability year in and year out," he said.

St. Johns River Basin was chosen over two other outstanding international finalists which included Lake Macquarie in New South Wales and the Swan Canning River System in Western Australia.

The Thiess Riverprize is a partnership between International Riverfoundation and Riverfestival - a dynamic ten day event in celebration of Brisbane's river, people, culture and environment held from 29 August to 7 September 2008.

For further information on the 2008 International Thiess Riverprize visit [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com)

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Riverfestival is an initiative of Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government.