



MEDIA RELEASE

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Lake Macquarie a finalist in both 2008 Thies Riverprizes

A groundbreaking river management project initiated by the Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee has been announced as a finalist in both the National and International Thies Riverprizes – worth a total of \$500,000 and presented in partnership by International Riverfoundation (IRF) and Riverfestival.

Lake Macquarie was chosen as a finalist in both prestigious awards for improvements made to its long-term sustainability.

Riverprize Judging Panel Chair, Professor Paul Greenfield, said those involved in delivering the project should feel proud their efforts have been recognised as a finalist.

“The inspirational outcomes of this project were made possible through the co-operation of scientists, community groups, industry members and government agencies and exemplifies the spirit of the both Thies Riverprizes,” Professor Greenfield said.

“A large number of regions across Australia are facing a water crisis. This year’s finalists have demonstrated how collaboration between private, government and community groups can make extraordinary changes,” Professor Greenfield said.

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

Three other Australian finalists competing for the national prize are the Derwent Estuary in Tasmania, the Tweed River in New South Wales and the Swan Canning River System in Western Australia (also named a finalist in the international award).

The third international finalist is the St Johns River, Florida USA.

The winner will be announced at the Thies Riverprize Presentation Dinner on Monday 1 September 2008 at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Queensland during the 11th International Riversymposium (1 to 4 September 2008). This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the award.

The Thies Riverprize is a partnership between IRF 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 Thies Riverprize and its finalists visit

www.riversymposium.com.au

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