

## MEDIA RELEASE



**Australian Government**  
**Water for the Future**

## Hurry! Nominations for Riverprize 2009 closing soon

1 April – Community groups, catchment authorities and individuals working on restoration of rivers, lakes and wetlands across Australia and around the world have just 4 weeks left to get their applications in for the prestigious *Riverprize*.

**Entry to the 2009 *Riverprize* closes at 5pm AEST on 30 April 2009.**

The International Thies *Riverprize* is valued at A\$350,000 this year. The National *Riverprize* is now funded by an Australian Government grant under its Water for the Future plan and is valued at A\$200,000.

*Riverprize* remains the highest monetary award in river management, but it is the global recognition for excellence in river restoration and the accompanying opportunities for knowledge transfer and expansion of restoration activities through Riverfoundation's unique twinning program (mentoring of other rivers in need) that makes this the most valuable of water prizes worldwide.

International judging panel Chair, Professor Paul Greenfield, says the *Riverprize* offers organisations committed to water sustainability a unique opportunity to take action on their river rescue ideas.

"The prize recognises best practice in the restoration and preservation of waterways worldwide, with past finalists coming from Australia, Canada, China, Europe, India, Israel, New Zealand and South East Asia. Like many countries, Australia is in the grip of a water crisis and now more than ever, it is encouraging to see projects both here and overseas combining science, public policy and community action to address river health.

"The extraordinary achievements of individuals and groups who are passionate about good water management never cease to amaze the judging panel", says Prof. Greenfield.

*Riverprize*, now in its 11th year, is a partnership between International Riverfoundation and the International *Riversymposium*. All international and national finalists are invited to present their projects at the International *Riversymposium* – the preeminent international conference on freshwater resources management held from 21-24 September 2009 in Brisbane, Australia.

Australian river and catchment management groups may enter both the national and international categories. International groups are only eligible for the international award. Previous entrants are encouraged to apply again.

**Information and nomination guidelines for the 2009 *Riverprize* are available from International Riverfoundation's website at [www.riverfoundation.org.au](http://www.riverfoundation.org.au).**

## **Background:**

International Riverfoundation is an international NGO at the heart of a global movement driving river restoration projects worldwide. It is charged with a mission to identify and reward best practice in river management; to inform, empower and build capacity of river managers worldwide, and to educate and inspire governments, companies and individuals around the world to protect our river systems for future generations.

International Riverfoundation believes that in identifying and rewarding best practice, new information is gathered and widely disseminated for greater impact; a model is established for others to follow, and networks developed to support and provide resources where needed. International Riverfoundation's *Riverprize* has proved to be highly effective in generating change in community-wide attitudes, behaviours and resources allocation.

Previous national winners (Australia): 2008 – Lake Macquarie, NSW; 2007 – Murray Wetlands, New South Wales; 2006 – Torbay Catchment, Western Australia 2005 – Bulimba Creek, Queensland; 2004 – Wallis Lake, New South Wales; 2003 – Hunter River, New South Wales; 2002 – Merri Creek, Victoria; 2001 – Goulburn Broken Catchment, Victoria.

Previous international winners: 2008 – St. Johns River Basin, USA; 2007 – Danube River, Europe; 2006 – Sha River, China; 2005 – Drôme River, France; 2004 – Siuslaw Basin, USA; 2003 – Alexander River, Israel, in cooperation with the Palestinians; 2002 – Mekong River, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam; 2001 – Blackwood River, Australia; 2000 – Grand River, Canada; 1999 – Mersey River, UK.

## **ENDS**

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