



MEDIA RELEASE

25 JUNE 2008

Swan River a finalist in both 2008 Thiess Riverprizes

The groundbreaking river management project initiated by the Swan River Trust has been announced as a finalist in both the National and International Thiess Riverprizes – worth a total of \$500,000 and presented in partnership by International Riverfoundation (IRF) and Riverfestival.

A government and community group established to protect and enhance the ecological health and long-term community benefit of the Swan Canning River System in Western Australia has received recognition for its work.

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 in both prestigious awards.

“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 Thiess Riverprize,” 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.”

Three other Australian finalists competing for the prestigious prize are the Tweed River in New South Wales, the Derwent Estuary in Tasmania and Lake Macquarie in New South Wales (also a finalist in the international award).

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

The winner will be announced at the Thiess 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 Thiess Riverprize is a joint 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 Thiess Riverprize and its finalists visit www.riversymposium.com.

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