

Torbay catchment wins Thies National Riverprize

STRICLY EMBARGOED until 9.00 pm, 5 September 2006

The Torbay Catchment in Western Australia has won the prestigious 2006 Thies National Riverprize award for excellence in river and waterway management, at a gala award ceremony held on 5 September, at *Riversymposium* in Brisbane.

Judged by a panel of national experts, the \$75,000 Riverprize and trophy was awarded to the Torbay Catchment Group and WA Department of Water for their outstanding catchment restoration project.

The Torbay Catchment is a valuable fishing, farming, tourism and conservation resource for the people of the south coast of Western Australia.

The catchment is located 26 kilometres west of Albany on the south coast of Western Australia.

The Torbay Catchment Group's vision for its catchment is 'an environmentally clean, balanced ecology supporting a prosperous community in which people respect each other's use of the catchment and waterways'.

The Department of Water is the lead government agency in Western Australia to manage and protect the state's environment and water resources.

Both organisations coordinate "Watershed Torbay" to restore catchment and waterway health.

Other finalists for the National Riverprize included Margaret River, WA (Cape to Cape Catchments Group), Dee River, Qld (Wowan Dululu Landcare Group), and Lake Macquarie, NSW (Office of the Lake Macquarie Catchment Coordinator).

International *Riversymposium* is a forum attracting experts from over 40 countries to discuss new ideas, policies, agreements, debates and technology that address some of the world's most pressing water related issues.

For further information and registration details visit: www.riversymposium.com

Contact: Torbay Catchment Group,
Karen McKeough ph 08 9841 0128 email:
karen.mckeough@environment.wa.gov.au
<http://www.torbay.scric.org/index.html>

WA's Department of Water
Naomi Arrowsmith mob: 0418 929 526

Naomi Arrowsmith will be available for interviews at the *Riversymposium* on Wednesday 6 September.

Media enquires: Don Alcock email: don@keytext.com.au phone: 0418 882 063