



## RIVERSYMPIOSIUM BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**5 September 2008**

### **RIVERSYMPIOSIUM SAVES THE BEST FOR LAST**

*Brisbane announced as Australia's champion city for water resource management on the last day of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Riversymposium*

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Riversymposium ended on a high with the announcement that Brisbane will be the only Australian champion city to form part of the Istanbul Urban Water Consensus (IUWC).

Riversymposium Chair Professor Paul Greenfield said Lord Mayor Campbell Newman has accepted the IUWC's invitation for Brisbane to play a lead role in taking action on urban water issues in the face of global changes such as urbanisation and climate change.

Professor Paul Greenfield said the opportunity will allow Brisbane to showcase its water management policies to Governments, legislators and the international community at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Turkey in March 2009. Feedback from key Riversymposium sessions will also be provided to next year's World Water Forum for the first time.

"This decision is both a great honour for Queensland and further evidence of Brisbane's commitment to build on its excellent reputation in the global water community," he said.

Brisbane joins almost 500 champion cities around the world to form part of the IUWC to demonstrate their leadership in urban water management. The announcement comes several months after Riversymposium organisers recommended Brisbane join the initiative.

The IUWC was launched on World Water Day 2008 by Istanbul's Mayor Kadir Topbas, who invited mayors and local Government leaders globally to make a united commitment to urban water resource management.

The theme for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum will be "Bridging Divides for Water" and special meetings will explore ways to bridge the divides between local authorities and central Governments.

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Riversymposium: A Future of Extremes is Australia's largest river management forum which took place in Brisbane from Monday 1 to Thursday 4 September 2008 as part of Riverfestival. More than 500 experts from 52 countries came together in Brisbane for the four-day global forum to explore challenges associated with the increased flooding and drought resulting from climate change.

**ENDS**

**Media contact: Sian Yewdall at Sequel Communications +61 3251 8132/0403 090 914 or Nina Rinella at Sequel Communications +61 7 3251 8129/0408 985 486**



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*



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