

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I eligible to apply for the Riverprize?

Riverprize is open to organisations or groups of organisations, demonstrating excellence in river management. The international award is open to Australian and international applicants. The Australian National award is exclusively for Australian entrants. Australian applicants can only enter one category each year. Riverprize winners are not eligible to re-nominate in the same category for 10 years.

What are the criteria for the Riverprize?

The key criteria for both Riverprizes is demonstrating excellence in river, wetland, lake or estuary management – using an integrated, science-based process for improving or maintaining aquatic ecosystem health. Submissions should also demonstrate evidence of high levels of innovation to integrate social, economic and ecological elements for effective program delivery. See pages 4 – 5 of the Application Guidelines for more details.

What are the judges looking for?

The judges are looking for science based program delivery aimed at maintaining or improving aquatic ecosystem health. Your submission needs to address the criteria and provide concrete evidence of delivery and outcomes. Claimed achievements must be backed up with data and evidence to verify statements (referenced and submitted as supporting documents). Addressing all criteria is essential. Do not exceed the maximum number of page or word limit. Judges will not assess information which exceeds the maximum limits for each section.

What are the benefits of entering Riverprize?

The benefits of winning the Riverprize are far greater than the prize money. Organisations who have previously won the Riverprize have reported increased recognition of their activities at local, regional and international levels, increased profile and credibility of their activities, greater ability to leverage additional funds for further river restoration and management activities, and greater opportunities to build relationships with other river management groups and experts regionally and internationally.

Entering Riverprize provides your organisation with the opportunity to:

- Reflect on the achievements of your river restoration and management programs, and improve relationships with stakeholders
- Vie for recognition as a Riverprize Finalist or Winner

Becoming a Riverprize Finalist enables you to:

- Join an elite network of Riverprize alumni
- Be recognised internationally for your achievements in river management
- Present your achievements at the International Riversymposium

Winning the Riverprize allows you to:

- Showcase your world-class river management practices, leadership and innovation in river management and commitment to sustainable practices
- Present your achievements at the International Riversymposium in the year you win, and host a workshop/feature session at the following Riversymposium.
- Increase awareness of your project in the community and to potential partners

What supporting material is needed?

You must be able to provide *evidence* of your river health maintenance and/or improvements, to support your responses to the selection criteria. For example: management plans; water quality monitoring data; communication strategies, etc. All supporting material needs to be provided in electronic form, as this information is given to each panel member. Please don't send hard copies or documents or books.

Here is an example of supporting material needed to back up your claims:

- River or Catchment Management Plans
- Annual reports
- Partnership agreements
- Water quality monitoring data
- Environmental Management Plans
- Education programs
- Communication strategies

Can the same supporting data be used for more than one selection criteria.

Yes, using the same data for two different criteria is acceptable. It is recommended that you have at least one supporting document for each criteria,

Can I include extra documentation not referenced in the application form?

No. The only "extra documents" in the supporting material should be images of your project. All other supporting material should be referenced in your responses. The judges get many applications, so be concise, with clear referencing. Ask someone not too closely related to the program to read your submission.

How do I reference documents in my application?

An example:

The chemical quality of the rivers within the Prize River catchment classed as 'Very Good' or 'Good', has improved from 48% in 1990 to 83% in 2008; a 35% improvement (reference X). Nineteen species of freshwater fish, including salmonids are found (reference Y) whilst the estuary supports viable shellfisheries and is a nursery ground for commercial sole and bass stocks. Overall fish diversity is increasing, with 125 species recorded, including internationally important cod and bass (reference Z). Since April 2005, 393 habitat enhancement projects have been delivered at a cost of \$17 million (reference D).

References X, Y, Z, D are then listed with a table of contents and saved onto the supporting CD and posted to the RiverFoundation office.

Who are the judges?

Applications in each category are judged by two separate panels comprising natural resource managers, representatives from water industry, government agencies, environmental organisations and eminent scientists from Australia and overseas. Please www.riverfoundation.org.au for the list of judges in each category.

I feel uncomfortable including some of my company's confidential information – how can I be sure it is kept confidential?

The judges are committed to a confidentiality agreement to ensure they do not divulge any information from the submissions. They are also requested to declare any conflicts and that they have no interest in the outcome of any particular river or organisation. If revealing dollar amounts are a concern you can use percentages.

Who should complete the submission?

In most cases the successful submissions are a team effort. It is not recommended that a junior member of staff take responsibility for submission as the tasks require management knowledge and a sophisticated understanding of the project involved. The CEO or a senior representative of the organisation must sign off the submission acknowledging that it is a true and accurate record of facts.

What is the difference between International RiverFoundation and the International Riversymposium?

The International RiverFoundation is a not for profit organisation that awards the Thiess International and National Riverprizes each year, at the International Riversymposium.

International Riversymposium is an international river and water management conference which is managed by the International WaterCentre. The objectives for the Riversymposium include networking & professional developing, knowledge building & sharing information and influencing policy and practice.

RiverFoundation and Riversymposium work closely together to deliver the Riverprize Gala Dinner, where the winners are announced.

What happens after I lodge my application forms?

RiverFoundation will confirm receipt of your Stage 1 Application Form via email within 5 working days of being received. We recommend that you keep copies of all the information sent through to us, and that packages are sent via registered post where possible.

You will be notified of your status by the early April if you have been shortlisted, sent the Stage 2 Application Form to complete and return by 15 June, 2012. Please review the Stage 2 Application questions listed at the end of your Stage 1 Application in preparation for this possibility.

Finalists will be announced by mid July and asked to provide the IRF office with video footage of their projects.

Winners are announced during the 15th International Riversymposium, 8 – 11 October, Melbourne 2012.

How do I choose a referee?

Referees are ideally someone who is independent of your program/projects but is familiar with the outcomes and benefits. Referees may be contacted to verify information in the applications, in lieu of supporting materials.

Do I include the 10min video footage in our application?

No. Only finalists need to provide video footage. Video footage will be requested from the finalists by the end of August, and given a few weeks to send it, along with time coding, back to the office. In anticipation of this request, you may like to compile your video footage and capture implementation of your projects.

Can I access previous winner's submissions?

RiverFoundation does not provide previous winner's submissions. Just as each project is unique, each submission is unique. You are welcome to contact the RiverFoundation Program Manager, RiverFoundation Ambassadors and past winners to seek advice, but past applications are not available.

What do I do if I have questions?

Contact Natalie Baker at natalie@riverfoundation.org.au or phone +61 7 3123 7767 if you have questions regarding the Riverprize process.

Where do I send my completed application?

Attention: Natalie Baker
natalie@riverfoundation.org.au
International RiverFoundation
PO Box 10907 Adelaide Street,
Brisbane Qld 4000
Australia

Good luck with your application!