



 RIVERSYMPOSIUM

17th International
RIVERSYMPOSIUM
EXCELLENCE – COLLABORATION – INTEGRATION

National Convention Centre
Canberra, Australia
15–18 September 2014

Professional Day on Integrated River Basin Management

0900-1700, Thursday 18 September

Fenner Building, Australian National University

BACKGROUND

The International RiverFoundation is a member of the Global Partnership to Advance Integrated River Basin Management. This Partnership currently includes The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (including the Great Rivers Partnership - GRP), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (via IWLEARN), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River as a supporting partner (ICPDR). The Partnership is seeking to align its international programs and collaborate for meaningful, global action. In particular, it is attempting to create an international agenda for major river and basin conferences, enabling one conference to feed into the next. This would reinforce world-wide efforts and emphasise a forward-looking agenda.

The 2014 International *Riversymposium* is the first conference solely focussed on rivers to be designed with input from the Partnership. A special emphasis in the conference has been devoted to three large river basin plenary case studies, which aim to demonstrate real-world scenarios involving innovative practices and success, while highlighting the challenges ahead.

By coincidence the Australian Capital Territory has commenced the first phase of the ACT Basin Priority Project which sees up to \$85m focussed on improving long term water quality in the ACT and the Murrumbidgee River System. This IRBM project is aimed at improving the water quality and health of six representative sub-catchments. The monitoring and modelling analysis to come out of Phase One of the project will help to better understand the water quality issues in the different types of catchments. Phase Two will involve the development and design of infrastructure options, which will be informed by the analysis of data collected from the monitoring from Phase One. The ACT Environment Minister, Simon Corbell, has endorsed a special session to bring our best global minds to answer the hypothetical question “what would you do with \$85m in 5 years”. Local project leaders will facilitate this session and provide background to this project prior to the Professional Day.

PURPOSE

The Professional Day aims to draw on the presentations at the River *symposium* and consolidate learnings into a 'statement on the way forward for IRBM'. Should the statement have sufficient merit, it may be fashioned as a 'Canberra Declaration'.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Professional Day is designed for delegates with a special interest in Integrated River Basin Management who want to dig deeper on issues, reflect of the conference presentations, and help design a future global or local agenda. Fashioning a forward-looking statement should be inclusive of all river voices – communities, Indigenous, scientists, managers, policy developers, business and industry representatives.

PROGRAM

The provisional program is:

Part 1: Learnings from the symposium

0900-0945	Reflections from Global Partnership members and keynotes
0945-1030	Observations from the floor
1030-1100	Morning tea
1100-1230	ACT 'hypothetical' – how to design an \$85m IRBM project
1230-1330	Lunch
1330-1430	Future priorities for IRBM – facilitated discussion by TNC
1430-1530	Development of the forward statement for IRBM
1530-1600	Afternoon tea
1600-1700	Polishing the Canberra Declaration on the way forward for IRBM
1700	Closing drinks

COST

A charge of \$100 will apply to cover room hire and catering.