

Citation on the occasion of the award of the 1999 International Thies Riverprize in Brisbane, Australia



“The 1999 International Thies Riverprize was awarded to Mersey Basin Campaign to mark fifteen years of dramatic improvement in the North West region of England. Established in 1985, the Campaign faced a big challenge to clean up the dirty Mersey River, which, with its estuary, was widely regarded as the most polluted in Europe.

“A combination of massive investment in the water infrastructure by a privatized water company, tough environmental legislation, and major sewage upgrades made the difference. The remarkable transformation was made possible by the work of many organisations and individuals working together. The Mersey Basin Campaign was a pioneer in partnership. Today the Mersey and its tributaries are cleaner than at any time since the end of the industrial revolution. Water quality has improved and fish have returned to formerly polluted stretches of the river. For the first time in living memory, juvenile salmon have been found in the upper reaches of the river near Stockport.”

www.riverfoundation.org.au