

**Table 2. The Brisbane Declaration. This declaration presents summary findings and a global action agenda that address the urgent need to protect rivers globally, as proclaimed at the 10th International River Symposium and Environmental Flows Conference, held in Brisbane Australia, 3-6 September, 2007. The conference was attended by more than 750 scientists, economists, engineers, resource managers, and policy makers from 50 nations.**

Key findings include:

- Freshwater ecosystems are the foundation of our social, cultural, and economic well-being.
- Freshwater ecosystems are seriously impaired and continue to degrade at alarming rates.
- Water flowing to the sea is not wasted.
- Flow alteration imperils freshwater and estuarine ecosystems.
- Environmental flow management provides the water flows needed to sustain freshwater and estuarine ecosystems in coexistence with agriculture, industry, and cities.
- Climate change intensifies the urgency.
- Progress has been made, but much more attention is needed.

The global agenda commits to:

- Estimate environmental flow needs everywhere immediately.
- Integrate environmental flow management into every aspect of land and water management.
- Establish institutional frameworks.
- Integrate water *quality* management.
- Actively engage all stakeholders.
- Implement and enforce environmental flow standards.
- Identify and conserve a global network of free-flowing rivers.
- Build capacity.
- Learn by doing.