

# Media Release



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## Speak Up on North Bank - before it's too late.

The National Trust is strongly urging Queenslanders to speak up on North Bank before public comments close on 24 September 2008.

President of the National Trust John Jackson said "The public is still confused and concerned about the North Bank process and is not supporting large commercial development in the Brisbane River."



"The Trust has met with the Deputy Premier Paul Lucas and suggested small North Bank improvements over several years or developing the Margaret Street carpark would get far more community support than building in the river. The Trust agrees there is a need to generate activity in the area, but having tall commercial buildings in the river is not the answer."

The Trust's sketches show the revised proposal would see the expressway sitting in a canyon of buildings, blocking key views of South Bank.

"I urge everyone to take an interest and have a say while you can", Dr Jackson added. "It's very concerning to see these four high-rise commercial buildings in the Brisbane River – and they're not 'next to the river' as it says in the brochure."

The Trust is adamant that the Government's North Bank brief is still at the heart of the issue as there is almost no available land within the North Bank project boundary. While the Enquiry by Design was a worthwhile process, the talented designers that gave their time were very constrained by the government's brief.

"To comply with the North Bank brief, the developer has to build tall buildings in the river to make a profit and provide the public infrastructure government is requiring. I believe Queenslanders would be happy to pay for small gradual improvements at North Bank to avoid private buildings in the river."

Once again, the North Bank consultation process is short, giving the community little time to understand complex concepts and make an informed response.

"There is nothing to be gained by trying to rush this past the public again," Dr Jackson added.

The government is inviting community comment before producing the final design guidelines and assessing the acceptability of a revised development proposal. National Trust is pleading with the public to put in a response by 24 September and voice their concerns.

Interviews: President John Jackson or Executive Director Stewart Armstrong.