

# North Bank Update

The North Bank campaign has made substantial progress, thanks to the efforts of many, but there is still a long way to go with this issue.



## PUBLIC FORUM

On Friday 13 June, the National Trust held its North Bank Public Forum at the Owen J Wordsworth Room at QUT's Gardens Point campus. The room was specifically chosen for its magnificent view over the Brisbane River and the North Bank area.

Over 100 people filled the room to hear the eminent speakers: Carolyn Nolan spoke about the history of the area, Professor Colin Apelt spoke about engineer aspects of flooding, Ian Fairweather spoke about waterways, flooding and the City Plan, and Associate Professor Peter Skinner spoke passionately about the process and alternative designs.

The speakers were followed by public forum sessions where participants raised issues and asked questions. In addition, over 30 written comments were received on the night and over the next few days, and the messages were clear and consistent:

*Identify, Preserve,  
Promote*

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DON'TS	DO'S
<u>No</u> worsening of flooding anywhere or significant impact on tidal flows.	Fix North Bank and make it a vibrant high-quality signature place for Brisbane
<u>No</u> significant impact on environmental and ecological values.	Celebrate the environmental and heritage values of the whole, not just a few parts
<u>No</u> significant impact on heritage values.	Think small, not big
<u>No</u> impact on significant views and vistas.	Recognise the river as the most important element in the designed landscape of Brisbane, the River City
<u>No</u> more shadowing of the River and South Bank	Make a place that welcomes visitors
<u>No</u> worsening of traffic congestion in the CBD or the freeway.	Improve access and planting
<u>No</u> impact on the maintenance of the freeway	Complement South Bank, yet recognise the constraints of the freeway
And <u>No</u> selling off the River and its banks.	Make it for people, not parking and have it managed by a statutory body on behalf of the community.

Many thanks to our excellent speakers and all participants for attending and making it such a successful event.



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## ENQUIRY BY DESIGN

For 3 days the following week, NTQ representatives were among over 50 people donating their time to work on alternative designs for North Bank in a workshop format. After the first morning of presentations, participants were divided into 7 teams to develop 7 schemes each with a different focus.

It soon became abundantly clear that the government's brief was at the heart of the problem.

The brief required the developer to provide a huge amount of public infrastructure, at no cost to government, yet provided no developable land within the project area. The only option left to them was to build large buildings in the river, which is absolutely ridiculous.

The 7 workshop scenarios explored the problem from different perspectives. By day 3 of the workshop, the development site outside the project boundary was added to one of the proposals because the participants were finding it difficult to sensibly comply with the brief.

The Trust is now gathering information on the proposals and will reply to government shortly.

**We welcome your comments on the Enquiry by Design Schemes so we can provide a community response to government.**

Email [info@nationaltrustqld.org](mailto:info@nationaltrustqld.org)

For a summary of the proceedings and ideas developed at the Enquiry by Design, which is available for public comment, visit:

<http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/projects/residential-and-accommodation/north-bank.html>

The Queensland Government is expected to release a new North Bank design for public comment in late July / early August 2008.

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