



NATIONAL TRUST

MEDIA RELEASE

Brisbane CBD faces threat of devaluation

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 11am Saturday 3 November

The National Trust of Australia today announced its inaugural 'Our Heritage at Risk' national top ten list in Hobart, Tasmania.

The final list was derived from over 60 'Our Heritage at Risk' places throughout Australia, identified by the National Trusts in each state earlier this year.

One of Brisbane's most important heritage precincts, the North Bank precinct along William Street, is one of Australia's Top 10 heritage places at risk because of a proposal to construct a high rise development over the water of the Brisbane River, blocking important vistas and severing historical links.

If the development proceeds, important relationships between some of Brisbane's earliest buildings and the river will be lost. The location of the convict built Commissariat Stores (c1828-29) and the former Immigration Depot (c1866) along the river's edge, illustrates the formation of Brisbane as a river city.

The initial proposal is much higher and more intense than the previously released masterplan because the Queensland Government wants to deliver the project at no nett cost.

However, while the proposal may come at no financial cost to Government, there would be a substantial cost to the people of Queensland as they would lose part of the Brisbane River, the visual connections across the river between South Bank Parklands and the historical William Street precinct, and more of Brisbane's history.

While, on one hand, the Queensland Government recently passed legislative amendments to ensure privately-owned heritage places at risk receive at least minimum care, the Government is also supporting the North Bank proposal that will have a detrimental heritage impact.

The Australian Council of National Trusts joins the people of Queensland in urging that the revised scheme for North Bank considerably reduces the scale of development and consequently the impact on this nexus between the city of Brisbane and its river.

For more information please call Stewart Armstrong on 0421 709 396.