1. Research Background
Between 2001 and 2008, various ‘North Bank’ proposals for redeveloping the northern bank of the Brisbane were instigated, initially by DCM and the South Bank Corporation, subsequently by Hassell and Lendlease and finally by Cox Rayner and Multiplex. The proposals were supported by the State Coordinator General, Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Deputy-Premier Lucas and Premier Bligh and were incorporated in the BCC City Centre Master Plan. This public interest research entailed critical analysis of the urban design proposal, dissemination of a cogent critique and presentation of feasible and prudent alternatives.

2. Research Contribution
The research revealed major factual misrepresentation of the extent of the project; contradictions between design principles, written descriptors and design depictions; departmental failings in the management of processes and failures to adequately address native title and heritage issues. The work raised concerns for structural and flooding impacts that were subsequently confirmed by independent specialist analysis.

3. Research Significance
The work has been widely recognized as initiating critical analysis of the project and to have substantially added to general and professional understanding of the proposal. As a result of the weight of public opinion expressed following this critique, the Government position changed from ‘green light’ approval of scheme in November 2007, to a complete rejection in October 2008. It can be argued that the impact of the critique has been a lasting contribution to the urban and environmental quality of the city, at a scale held to be more valuable than the $1.7 billion impact of the discredited scheme. It is hoped that the critique will also have a salutary impact on public policy and procedures in Queensland.

REFERENCES
1. Skinner, P.R., ‘Some sensible ideas for the northern bank of the Brisbane River’. Trust News, National Trust online journal, 15 June 2008


5. Skinner, P.R., ‘All the Way to the Bank’. In Monument, Oct-Nov, 44, 54-59,2001. The following, previously unpublished documents are available on eSpace:

7. Skinner, P.R. ‘Some sensible ideas’ booklet and a/v presentation to ‘North Bank Enquiry by Design’, Department of Infrastructure and Planning Design Charrette, 18 June, 2008.

8. Skinner, P.R., Public Comment: Brisbane City Centre Draft master Plan, 1406 words, 30 September, 2005.

9. Skinner, P.R., Public Comment: Preferred North Bank Strategic Plan, 2595 words, 8 February, 2005.

In addition to the above documents, this public interest research included personal submissions to the Coordinator General’s department, invited participation in a three-day design charrette organised by Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Urban Design Alliance of Queensland, and invited presentations to the National Trust of Queensland, Australian Green Development Forum, and a wide range of newspaper, radio and television commentary in a period 2005-2008.