

## **5.0 Implementation - Staging**

## 5.0 Implementation – Staging

### 5.1 Approach to implementation and staging

#### Concepts underlying implementation

Implementation of the Morpeth management plan will be guided by the following concepts:

- That the Plan provides a framework for long term management, decision-making and action
- That implementation will be undertaken in accordance with available resources
- That appropriate investigation and community involvement will be undertaken prior to on-ground action
- That any adopted program of action should include action in each key subject-area of management; i.e.:
  - Heritage and character (4.1)
  - Business, visitors and amenity + interpretation (4.2)
  - Parks, riverside, street trees, rural surrounds (4.3)
  - Streetscape- roads, kerb and gutters, footpaths, street furniture (4.4)
  - Road safety and traffic (4.5)
- That projects with a high priority are those that recognise the interrelationships between heritage, visitors and the local community; e.g. that will benefit visitors, the local community and will protect / interpret heritage
- That there are limited staff resources to implement the Management Plan

The actions in section 4 are arranged in three stages, 1, 2, 3, but it should be recognised that in practice actions will overlap. It is likely that the first stage will take a minimum of three years. Regular review of progress is desirable.

#### On-going actions not included in table

There are various on-going actions related to council's responsibilities for roads and related services and to existing policies. They are not included in this table because they are already included in council management or can readily be included, for example:

- Review the Morpeth Bus Service (4.5.7)
- Implement the Maitland City Regional Bike Plan (4.5.8)
- Adopt the 'Safer routes to school' program (4.5.5)

Nevertheless, the procedures for implementing the management plan and reporting on implementation should include these matters for checking.

#### The pace of action

The pace at which the Morpeth Management Plan is implemented depends upon the resources of the Council and the community, people, skills, time and funding. Even some of the most straight-forward matters is likely to require discussions and planning in Council and in the local community. If Council

attempts to do many things at once the local community may be faced with overload, with many things being planned or under discussion.

The Council has limited staff resources and the costs estimated in the staging table and the projects are only the start of the projects. Cost of acquisition of land and costs of works are not able to be estimated this stage. As investigations proceed, council staff will be able to estimate the costs of acquisitions and works.

Some investigations in Stage 3 might be undertaken earlier if funds are available from the Council, the local community or other sources. The amount of Council funding for the recommended projects will be subject to the adoption by Council of the priorities in the Management Plan and the inclusion of these priorities in Council's budgetary process.

Ideally, all matters would have a high priority and it is difficult to separate them. In this staging, priority is given to actions that will lead to improvements relatively quickly – such as the traffic calming and parking, picnic areas and planting street trees; -and also to starting projects that will improve facilities for visitors and the local community, and protect heritage – i.e. Queen's Wharf including provision of perimeter parking; and visitor management. Having undertaken this management plan it is vital that a major effort be made to implement it, and therefore the first stage has many actions and projects.

### **Projects**

The actions that have the highest priority, and need the most organisation, are arranged into projects. Actions that can be readily implemented by Council without specialists advice are not included in projects, unless part of a range of similar and related matters.

### **Responsibilities**

This column indicates who would be involved in the projects. Council would necessarily have involvement in all projects, to varying degrees, and some community consultation is assumed for most projects. In this column

- 'Council - in house' means that all the work – investigations etc. would be undertaken by council staff
- 'Council-in house + consultants' means that the majority of work could/would be undertaken by council staff with some input from consultants at key points – beginning, middle, end.
- 'Community' – means that the community would have an active role in management and implementation – this is particularly applicable to projects relating to visitors and to businesses.
- 'Consultant ' means that consultants/specialists would undertake the majority of investigations and planning, as in the Queens wharf investigations and planning.

**Costs estimates for special advice only**

Costs here are basic estimates for the 'specialist advice' component only. They do not include estimates of:

- council staff time
- the time of members of the community
- the costs of acquisitions
- the costs of undertaking works.

Council staff has experience in costing and has provided some estimates. It should be noted that the consultant team did not include a quantity surveyor or specialist in the estimating of costs. These estimates are approximate only. They depend very much on the extent of work that the Council itself can undertake. They are done on the basis of today's prices, and do not include adjustments for inflation, etc..

To a person unfamiliar with the standards of practice expected of local authorities nowadays, the cost here may seem excessive. Concerns about accountability, risk, and liability have led to Council's needing to adopt much stricter performance measures than might have applied in the past. In consequence, matters that might have been decided in informal discussions, now require substantial documentation. In consequence, matters that might have been relatively inexpensive in the past are now more costly.

The next step is to prepare detailed briefs that set out the tasks to be undertaken by consultants, the related tasks to be undertaken by council or community before or during the project, and then review estimates.

**Briefs for projects and refinement of costs**

The implementation of the management plan would be assisted by preparing briefs for the projects in stages 1 as a first step in implementation. This would clarify the extent to which the council could undertake the work in house (having regard to other responsibilities); and therefore also clarify the extent to which specialist advice was needed, and the likely costs. In preparing the briefs, further specialist advice would be desirable, for example, from market researchers about the options for undertaking visitor interview and event monitoring.

A key component in all projects is community involvement; so it is desirable to establish standard procedures at the beginning so that everyone knows what is expected of them – Council, community, consultant specialists, and all estimates of time and costs can take account of the procedures.

The stages are shown on the following pages:

Stage 1 – years 1 and 2

Stage 2 – years 3 and 4

Stage 3 – years 5 and 6

## Morpeth Management Plan

## 5.4 Implementation - Stage 3 - Actions and Projects

Action #	Ref #	Action	Stage	Project	Responsibility	Advice to Council
24	4.3.2	River use & access- Investigate impacts of boat use on remains of wharfs etc., signs; options for relocating boat ramp; repair/replacement of public wharf; feasibility of viewing area near the bridge	Stage 3	-	Council, community + consultants	Estimates to be prepared by Council at end stage 2
25	4.3.2	Investigate acquisition/use of former railway corridor to establish walk/bicycle path and investigate options for shorter, safer bicycle routes to Maitland and other centres	Stage 3	-	Council, community + consultants	Estimates to be prepared by Council at end stage 2
26	4.3.4	Wetland- investigate the practicalities of encouraging the re-establishment of wetland south of Morpeth	Stage 3	-	Council, community + consultants	Need for consultants to be decided by Council in Stage 2
27	4.3.3 4.3.4	Tree planting /landscape project to minimise visual impacts of new developments on rural surrounds and approaches to Morpeth, and to enhance views	Stage 3	02	Council + consultants	\$8,000
28	4.2; 4.3; 4.5	Queens wharf project: implementation of plan prepared in Stage 1 and refined in stage 2	Stage 3	04	Council-in house	Need for consultants to be decided by Council in Stage 2
29	4.4.2	Interpretation of history and heritage - follow up from stage 2 installation of signs etc.	Stage 3	11	Council, community + consultants	Need for consultants to be decided by Council in Stage 2
30	4.1	Care of heritage buildings - council property - conservation plans for School of Arts, and further advice for courthouse or cottage at common if necessary.	Stage 3	10	Council + consultants	\$15,000
31	4.2	Morpeth museum - prepare new display about the history and heritage of Morpeth	Stage 3	12	Council, community + consultants	Advice re costs to be provided in application for

Stages are provisional and depend upon availability of resources - council and community.

Projects are described in Section 6.0

## **6.0 Implementation - Projects**

## 6.0 Implementation - Projects

Each project is described using standard headings

List of projects

- 1) Traffic safety, parking and related matters
- 2) Picnic areas, tree-planting and parks
- 3) Acquisition of land and detailed survey of riverside and Queen's Wharf
- 4) Queen's wharf investigations and planning
- 5) Riverside open space - investigations and planning
- 6) Amend LEP and DCP
- 7) Advisory documents for owners and applicants
- 8) Visitor and amenity management
- 9) Streetscape - footpaths, road shoulders, street furniture and advertising signs
- 10) Care of heritage buildings
- 11) Interpretation of history and heritage
- 12) Museum planning and exhibits

## 6.1 Project 1 – Traffic calming and safety and related matters

**Reference in Management Objectives Table** 4.5 Road Safety and Parking

### Project Description

- Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for Swan Street business district and environs  
*(Concept Plan prepared)*
- Road Safety and Traffic Management recommendations for Council consideration  
*(See Management Plan and Supplementary Report)*

### Investigations and Actions

#### Traffic management plan

##### Stage 1

- Consideration and agreement from Maitland City Council Traffic Committee (has RTA representation), including the limited regulatory signage & treatment of thresholds  
*(Cost to council at this stage is staff time)*

##### Stage 2

- Implementation of agreed sections of the plan following any required detailed design.  
*(Morpeth Road kerbing and shoulder sealing, the proposed information bay surfaces, roadmarking, thresholds, refuge median and carriageway narrowing should be achievable for under \$130,000)..*

*Consider inclusion of resurfacing of the Swan Street pavement.*

See appendix I - Traffic calming and safety works – sketches of bollards and refuge median.

#### Road Safety & Traffic Management recommendations

- Commission detailed analysis of Queens Wharf area for suitability of introduction of significant parking space particularly with regard to site heritage and economic reality (see Project 4) .  
*(Allow \$25,000)*
- Develop operating procedures for Special Events including approval and Traffic Control Plans (see project 8)  
*(Cost is staff time and/or use of consultant, allow \$6,000)*

#### HOLD POINT

*At this stage the projects will be determined to proceed or alternatives proposed by the council project manager. One of the factors in the decision to proceed with some of these projects will be economic reality; this report cannot pre-empt that decision at this time*

## 6.2 Project 2 – Picnic areas, tree planting and parks

Reference in Management Objectives Table 4.3.1 Parks; 4.3.3- Trees

### Project description

A combination of small projects relating to picnic areas, street trees, and small parks.

In this project a heritage landscape specialist will work with and guide council in management and in undertaking works. Council to prepare data base/commuter record of location and species of all street trees as a basis for work. The parks should have an informal character that complements with the rural surrounds and does not obscure views to rural surrounds.

#### Stage 1

- a) Review of historical documents held by library and museum;
- b) Advice about implementing new picnic areas and associated planting; see notes and plan on following pages) (on site one and half days)
- c) Develop street tree policy (see appendix L). Advice about the location of replacement planting in avenues and location of new street tree planting; see tree planting policy on following pages;
- d) Advice about landscaping in parks – James Street and proposed park near cemetery. James Street park could include playground
- e) Some consideration of interpretation – location /information on any signs which should be minimal
- f) Documentation and review following consultation
- g) Consultation with community

Say , total 12 days

Fees \$800 per day plus expenses 200, say \$12,000

#### Stage 3 [N.B. No specific action in stage 2 of Implementation of management Plan]

Preparation of designs and selection of species for tree planting to minimise impacts of new development on rural surrounds and to enhance views of rural surrounds

Discussions with council and community on site- one day, plus follow up report one day.

\$8,000

### Investigations before project is undertaken

It is desirable for Council to mark the exact position of existing trees on a plan and to identify species beforehand, in a data-base.

### Issues and Comments

Parks are an important resource for both the Morpeth for visitors and the community. Through landscaping their amenity for passive recreation can be improved, including spaces for picnic and some interpretation of Morpeth's history. As with other projects the Councils responsibilities for formal documentation every decision add to the cost of what might otherwise have been a relatively simple exercise.

## 6.3 Project 3 – Detailed Land Survey of Riverside and Queens Wharf and acquisition of riverside land

### Reference in Management Objectives Table – Riverside 4.3.2

#### Project description

- h) Detailed land survey of natural and cultural features in the Queens Wharf and riverside areas to provide a basis for protection, management and planning for works.
- i) Area to be included is from Queen's wharf to Robert Street, including nearby former railway embankment and Steamer Street west end. A plan showing the area to be surveyed is on the following page. It includes the areas zoned/reserved 6(a), 6(c) public road reserves, formation for coal staithe and Queen's wharf station.
- j) Survey to locate trees and shrubs, edges of embankments, roads, picnic tables, position of features shown on historical plans in Cynthia Hunter's report 1997
- k) Leave markers to indicate the former positions of key past features, such as wharves and waterside industrial buildings.
- l) Advice about heritage protection and direction for any future investigation for management

#### Relationship with other projects / investigations needed before project is undertaken

Land Survey is required:

- preparatory to planing and design of Queens Wharf park and parking area (project 2); and
- heritage protection and archaeological zoning

#### Issues and Comments

Detailed information about land form and features is needed to adequately identify the areas to be protected for potential archaeological value, areas to be used for park, and areas able to be considered for parking for boat ramp and other parking..

The survey requires greater detail than most surveys so that obvious evidence is located and also the position of past features for which there might be below ground archaeological evidence.

The location of key features should be marked with pegs, or other markers

#### Costs

N.B. Land acquisition costs (sale price plus associated legal costs) cannot be estimated at this stage.  
Land surveyor \$23,000

Consultant archaeologist \$5,000

Consultant historian \$1,000

Consultant planner \$2,000

Total \$31,000

Plan on following page shows area to be surveyed.



## 6.4 Project 4 – Queen’s Wharf area investigations and planning

**References in Management Objectives Table** 4.5.4 Parking, 4.3.2 Riverside

### Project description

#### Stage 1

Following detailed land survey (Project 2), investigation of the Queens wharf and Steamer Street area and preparation of detailed plan to:

- a) Protect and enhance the natural environment of the riverside
- b) Protect and interpret heritage including archaeological sites
- c) Provide parking for users of boat ramp and consider long term option for removal of the boat ramp to another location
- d) Provide a long term standing area for tourist coaches
- e) Provide parking for visitors to Morpeth
- f) Provide a park with picnic facilities with connection to the riverside walk
- g) Provide a footpath and steps to Swan Street
- h) Re-open Steamer Street West, if feasible
- i) Provide estimates for proposed works

#### Stage 2

Further advice from specialists involved in the stage 1 of this project, on-site visit plus short report say 2 people days \$2,000

### **Relationship with other projects / investigations needed before project is undertaken**

The project follows immediately from Project No. 1 – Land Survey of Riverside and Queen’s Wharf area.

### **Issues and Comments**

This project has the highest priority in the works. It has benefits for Morpeth residents and for regular users of the boat ramp and for occasional and tourists visitors.

It will address long term concerns about the care, protection and interpretation of the riverside and Morpeth’s history as a river port.

The area will become an attraction in its own right.

The land immediately alongside the river is to remain for conservation of the river bank, recreation or interpretation. Parking to be provided only if additional land is available and impacts on heritage resources can be minimal.

### **Costs**

Stage 1                      Investigations and preparation of detailed plan \$25,000

Stage 2                      Further advice \$2,000

(specialists involved in initial report- allow more for specialists who need time to familiarise with issues, etc.)

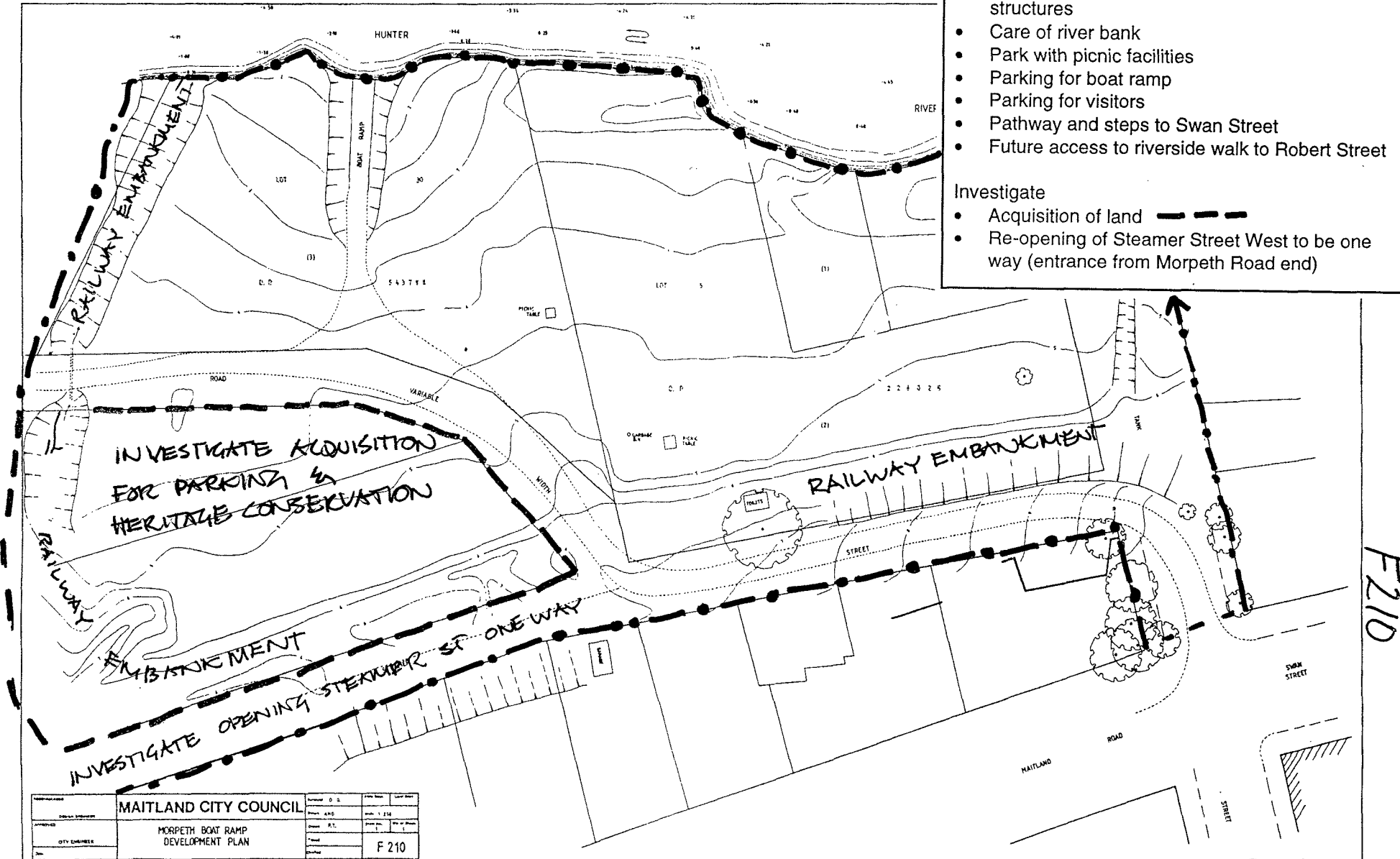
# Queens Wharf Area

Plan for:

- Conservation of heritage – railway embankments, wharf remains + associated structures
- Care of river bank
- Park with picnic facilities
- Parking for boat ramp
- Parking for visitors
- Pathway and steps to Swan Street
- Future access to riverside walk to Robert Street

Investigate

- Acquisition of land
- Re-opening of Steamer Street West to be one way (entrance from Morpeth Road end)



F210

MAITLAND CITY COUNCIL		Project No. F 210	Scale 1:1000
City Engineer	Morpeth Boat Ramp Development Plan	Author	City Engineer
City Engineer	Morpeth Boat Ramp Development Plan	Checked	City Engineer
City Engineer	Morpeth Boat Ramp Development Plan	Date	2010

## 6.5 Project 5 – Riverside investigations and planning

Reference in Management Objectives Table 4.3.2 Riverside

### 6.5.1 Project description

Acquisition of land along the Hunter River between Tank Street and Robert Street and planning for landscaping and management of the area including:

- a) Conservation and interpretation of archaeological evidence of past wharf use
- b) Conservation of riverbank
- c) Conservation and interpretation of railway use
- d) Riverside walk to provide public access from Tanks Street/ Queens Wharf and Robert Street areas
- e) Planting and works associated with these objectives
- f) Guidelines for regular management
- g) Guidelines for development nearby to ensure that new works complement but do not appropriate the park and that privacy for adjoining owners is maintained.
- h) Consultation with responsible authorities – Department of Public Works, etc.
- i) Consultation with adjoining owners and community

The project is to be undertaken with consultation with the adjoining owners. The undeveloped/unbuilt upon character of the area should be retained.

N.B. As the land is liable to flooding, use and works are limited to those that comply with requirements for the conservation of the riverbank.

### Relationship with other projects / investigations before project is undertaken

Follows immediately from Project No. 3 – Land Survey of Riverside and Queens Wharf area.

Could be undertaken in conjunction with Project No. 2 – Queens Wharf area.

### Issues and Comments

The idea of park and walk alongside the river and concern about the protection and care of old wharves has been in the minds of the community and the Council for many years. Morpeth's history as a river port needs to be interpreted and made more accessible to the local community and visitors.

### Funds

Several specialists with heritage experience are needed;

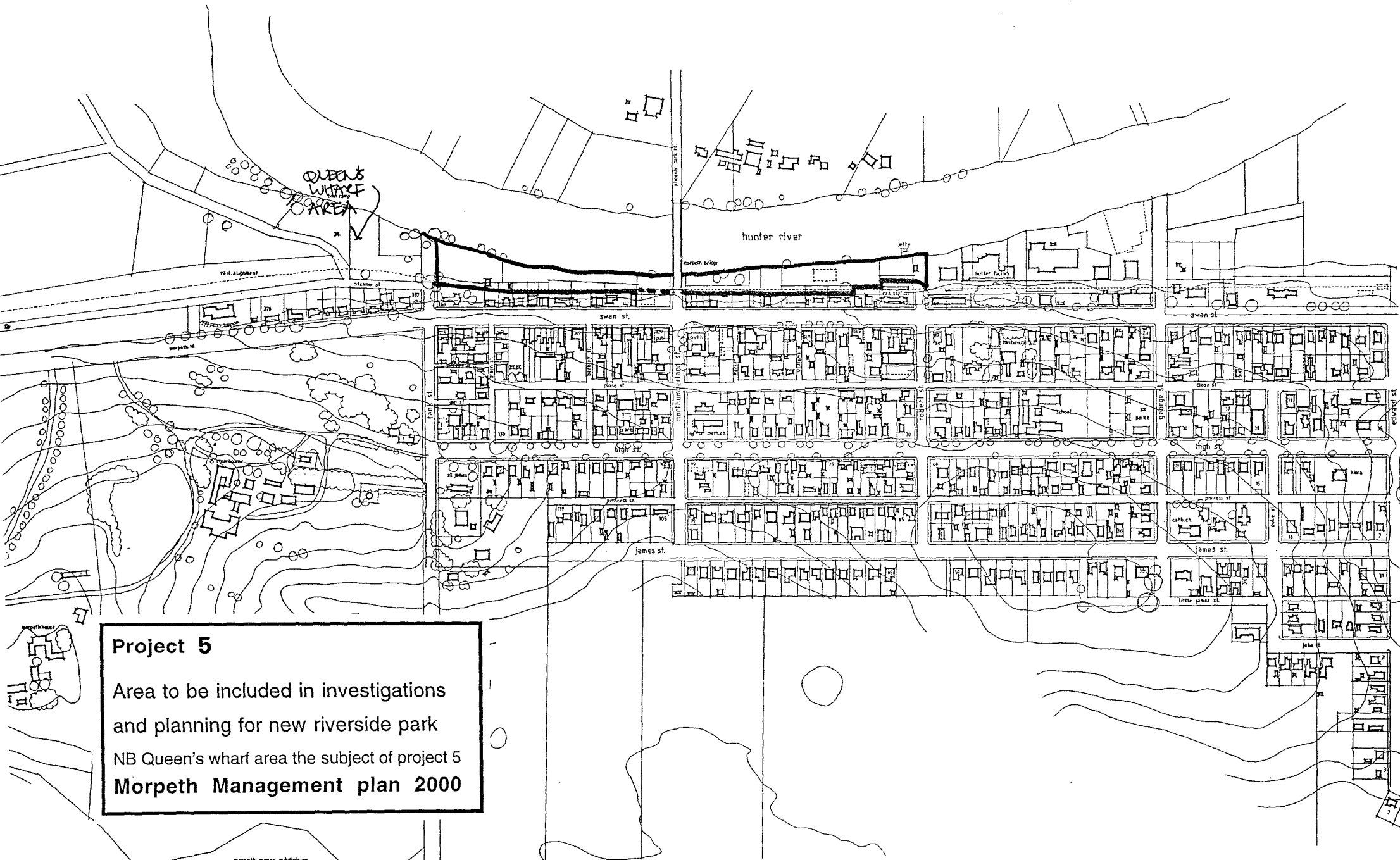
Landscape

Archaeologists

Engineer

Someone to organise community consultation

\$25,000



QUEEN'S WHARF AREA

**Project 5**  
Area to be included in investigations and planning for new riverside park  
NB Queen's wharf area the subject of project 5  
**Morpeth Management plan 2000**

### **6.5.2 Project description - Investigation of flood mitigation/levee at industrial area**

The industrial area has experienced several floods in recent years. The river is lower on the south side of the bank than the north side due to historical factors. The impacts and risks of flooding is affecting the continued viability of the industrial area.

It should be noted that there is likely to be archaeological evidence of the history and use of the wharves in this area that is worthy of conservation.

The project is to investigate the opportunities for flood mitigation at the industrial area and to evaluate the options, including any impacts on archaeological remains.

This work requires people with specialist experience in flood mitigation and specialists in heritage.

Costing to be supplied by Council staff.

## 6.6 Project 6 – Amend LEP and DCP

### Reference in Management Objectives Table

Numerous, references particularly in 4.1, 4.2 , 4.3, 4.4

### Project description

Review the LEP to provide clear direction for Morpeth and includes the matters in section 4.

See appendices:

- a) Statement of significance
- b) Description of character
- c) LEP 1993 Heritage Items
- d) List of places worthy of inclusion in schedule of heritage items
- e) Views and view corridors
- f) List of matters to be included in LEP/DCP amendments
- g) List of buildings built for non-residential use, or partial non-residential use, in areas zoned residential
- h) DCP 1993 Sheet 30 - Morpeth: Kerb and gutters existing and proposed

This project also includes the preparation of new building lines and setback standards for the whole of Morpeth so that clear guidelines are provided for siting of additions and new development.

### Relationship with other projects / investigations needed before project is undertaken

Provides direction for council and community in relation to management of change in Morpeth (Project 2 – Advisory documents – will assist owners in relation to in key matters and locations.)

Heritage schedule

In relation to the list of heritage items, further survey and research is desirable. Basic inventory forms, with some research could be prepared in say 10 days

10 days @ \$1,000 = \$10,000

Total \$10,000

### Issues and Comments

Miscellaneous matters

There are a large number of matters to be included in the DCP and to provide an effective framework it may be necessary to amend the LEP. Council staff have the skills to undertaken this work, but it would also benefit from specialist consultant input, at the beginning and in the review of drafts. Three days at the beginning, followed by two single days at mid point and draft exhibition document, say 6 days

Daily rate fees (\$800) plus expenses (\$200)

10 days @ \$1,000 = \$10,000

## 6.7 Project 7 – Advisory documents for owners and applicants

### Reference in Management Objectives Table

4.1.1; 4.1.2

#### **Project description**

Prepare advisory documents to assist owners and applicants and to provide direction beyond the DCP.

This project includes the preparation of illustrated guidelines for new development in the business zone and the residential zone which explain the reasoning of the objectives and policies and provide clear standards.

Stage One - To be prepared when DCP documents are being finalised..

- a) Advice about self assessment of proposals
- b) Guidelines for preparing heritage impact statements relating to Morpeth

Consultant to provide draft to be discussed with council's heritage committee and MVF and finalised by Council

6 days @ \$1,000 = \$6,000

#### Stage Two

- a) Guidelines for the re-use of heritage buildings and use for accommodation
- b) Illustrated guidelines for development in the business zone in Swan Street
- c) Prepare guidelines about the character of each part of the town
- d) Discussion with heritage committee and MVF
- e) Editing and presentation

Total stage two 15 days

Daily rate fees (\$800) plus expenses (\$200)

15 days @ \$1,000 = \$15,000

#### **Relationship with other projects / investigations needed before project is undertaken**

Complements the amendments to the DCP and will provide help to owners and applicants.

#### **Comments**

This project is to be undertaken in two stages, each complementing the other. It will assist community understanding of the character and variety of Morpeth

## 6.8 Project 8 – Visitor and amenity management

### Reference in Management Objectives Table

4.2, 4.5.

### Project description

This project combines a variety of tasks relating to visitor management, including information posts, surveys of visitor responses/satisfaction/needs, etc.. It involves substantial work by the local community– such as preparation of draft information for visitor information posts/signs, and input to the development of standard processes for events and monitoring amenity. Specialist advice is needed from people experienced with market research and / or community planning.

The extent and nature of specialist advice depends upon the resources of the community and the council and the time for consultation.

- a) Improve the provision of toilet facilities(including parents room) in/near business area
- b) Visitor information posts/signs in town (4.2.2.) Designer - say 3 days \$3,000
- c) Devise visitor survey monitoring (including the impact of visitor signs in and distant from town) 4.2.1, 4.2.2); initial advice about this and monitoring amenity, and advice about costs of regular surveys say five days \$5,000
- d) Develop operating procedures/documentation for special events including approval and traffic control plans (4.2) (traffic engineer \$6,000)
- e) Develop Morpeth cultural tourism - good practice principles and code of conduct for tourist business, etc. using the principles in section 2 of the Management Plan as a basis, plus Draft Heritage Tourism Guidelines and ICOMOS draft Cultural Tourism Charter. See appendices J & K (tourism/community/planner working with community and council, say \$3,000)
- f) Identify informal meeting places for community and promote their retention, include in DCP – work with council in house
- g) Encourage community events (4.2.2) council and community

### Issues and comments

It may be tempting to leave out some of these tasks, or to consider them unnecessary, for example, because they might not have been done before.

However, attention to these matters in a professional way that pays attention to all concerns, will assist the reconciliation of the apparently different viewpoints in the Morpeth community; and hopefully lead to less friction within the community.

The Morpeth cultural tourism principles and good practice code could be developed for the Maitland City area as a whole with some additional funding.

Total (all specialists) \$17,000

## 6.9 Project 9 – Streetscape - footpaths, kerb and gutter, road shoulders, street furniture

Reference in Management Plan - Table 4.4 and part 4.5

### Project description

Follow up all the investigations and actions (other than DCP) in 4.4 and in accordance with policy outlined in 4.4.

#### Stage 1

- a) Road shoulders- investigation of appropriate surfaces and trial sections (e.g. compacted gravel) grassed areas to remain grassed (4.4.1)
- b) Footpaths – development of new policy for footpaths that respects range of existing surfaces; development of standards for new or widened footpaths, develop condition review (4.4.2) (4.5)
- c) Kerb and gutter – advice about following amended DCP plan (1993 DCP plan in appendix

Advice: discussion with Council and community on site at beginning of project about each aspect (a to g) one day; comment on proposals for trial sections and trial sections – half day

Council estimate 20 days \$20,000

#### Stage 2

- d) Maintenance guidelines for stone kerb and gutter (bitumen to stop at edge of stone and not flow over)
- e) Advice about repair of stone flagging in Swan Street, including removal of bitumen from surface of flags in some areas; and implementation of advice
- f) Kerb and gutter – develop design for new concrete kerb and gutter, in accordance with policy (4.4.3)
- g) Review standards for street furniture and establish a standard (of modern design) to apply when new seating is needed (4.4.4)

Council estimate 20 days

Say \$20,000 plus travel expenses

#### Stage 3

- g) Install seats in streets (not associated with cafes/restaurants)

### Comments

This project is to be undertaken steadily, in each stage of implementation. It is to be undertaken by Council in house, with regular input from architect experienced with heritage matters and from stone specialists and stonemason in item e).

## 6.10 Project 10 – Care of heritage buildings

Reference in Management Plan - Table 4.1 and 4.2

### Project description

This project combines some small actions all of which relate to the care of heritage buildings. It is based upon the notion that Council should demonstrate good practice with the care of its own property, and then encourage others to do likewise. The cottage at the common has been neglected for several years and is in urgent need of attention to secure it for the future.

#### Stage 1

Policy/report about the unoccupied council-owned cottage at the common - its condition, repair and use. Whilst a full conservation plan is desirable, this may postpone the work and increase the threats to the building; a report that focuses on the most urgent matters is therefore recommended.

As a first step in conserving the cottage, commission including the following:

- (a) A brief statement of significance, using readily available sources
- (b) Advice about the condition of the building and works to stabilise and rehabilitate for use
- (c) Advice about ways and means of obtaining a compatible use, including long term lease for use as a private dwelling.

To assist this work, Council staff (e.g. heritage officer) should contact local historians who may be familiar with the history of the building, e.g. Bob Hill and Ray Lawler.

The report can be used as the basis for expressions of interest and any future agreement for its use.

Heritage architect 5 days \$5,000

- Implementation of advice

#### Stage 2

- Care of heritage buildings - contact owners of heritage buildings that are unoccupied, in poor condition or extremely rare to encourage conservation – Council in-house

#### Stage 3

- Care of heritage buildings - council property - conservation plan for School of Arts (\$10,000), and further advice for courthouse (for which there is already a conservation plan, say \$5,000) or cottage at common, if necessary, say \$5,000.

Say \$20,000

## 6.11 Project 11 – Interpretation of history and heritage

**Reference in Management Objectives Table** 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3

### Project description

This project combines various actions to provide information for the local community and visitors about the history and heritage of Morpeth.

#### Stage 1

- a) Establish data base for historical information (Council- heritage officer, librarian /museum).
- b) Compile a comprehensive list of references and sources of information about Morpeth
- c) Prepare advice about the aspects of Morpeth's history and heritage that are worthy of further research, including reference to Hunter Water Board records and council records
- d) Prepare applications for funds to assist stages 2 and 3 and to seek funds for display in Morpeth museum.
- e) Research, photography; prepare booklet about age/types of dwellings and other buildings
- f) Investigate opportunities to interpret/use former railways route and station

Historian familiar with Morpeth working with Council staff and community, with input from Council's heritage advisor and /or consultant – Historian, Say 2 days \$1,500

Heritage and/or interpretation consultant to discuss proposed project with community prepare applications for funding – Say 3 days \$3,000

Booklet about types of buildings and dates of all houses and other buildings – research, photography, compilation of text historian 5 days, heritage consultant 4 days, plus photography say \$7,500

Total \$12,000

[Publication and design of booklet say \$10,000, or initial publication by photocopying, say \$5,000]

#### Stage 2

Heritage consultant and interpretation planner working with community

- g) Develop interpretation framework and themes and standard approach for signs , content, etc.;
- h) Prepare material for key sites including parks
- i) Prepare heritage trail (walk/bicycle); consult with community and draft of brochure

Say total g, h, i say \$20,000

#### Stage 3

- j) Interpretation of history and heritage - follow up from stage 2 installation of signs, layout and printing of brochure etc.

### Issues and Comments

This information - such as signs in conjunction with walking trails - will lead to a greater appreciation and enjoyment of the town and will lead to a longer stay time by visitors, and more repeat visits. The data base is needed to ensure accurate, high quality information. It is vital that people engaged in the study can rely on information and do not need to undertake detailed research

## 6.12 Project 12 – Museum planning

### Reference in Management Table 4.2

#### Project description

- a) Review conservation plan and museum proposals; including practicalities of being a visitor centre.
- b) Morpeth museum – design and prepare new display about the history and heritage of Morpeth

#### Relationship with other projects / investigations needed before project is undertaken

Ideally this project should be undertaken in conjunction with Project 11, using the same specialists. It follows the application for funding prepared in stage 1 of Project 10

#### Issues and Comments

Existing reports/recommendations need to be implemented and or reviewed. The voluntary local workforce requires support in relation to facilities and in resources to improve both display and storage. At present the resources are stretched merely to keep the facility open and there is little opportunity to make progress with displays.

The Morpeth museum is a potentially vital facility both for visitors and the Morpeth community. The museum is a relatively new facility, compared with many local history museums in Australia. It does not have a large local collection and there are likely to be artefacts worth collection, provided potential donors can be assured that the material will be well cared-for. This in turn depends upon but the building provides opportunities for effective displays about the history of the town,

A conservation plan has been prepared by a heritage architect/NSW Public works; and advice has been sought and received from the Newcastle Regional Museum and the NSW Museums Foundation.

The building has many original and early features and is in relatively good condition considering its age. It has some period fittings such as venetian blinds that are worthy of retention, and can readily be retained with some care.

A report is needed about the building itself and to provide additional space to assist the better functioning of the museum

#### Stage 1

Museum consultant and architect say total \$5,000

#### Stage 2

Design and Implementation costs to be estimated in application for funding undertaken in Stage 1, Project 11.