

The attention of Chapter Council is drawn by the Public Relations Committee to the following motion passed by the Sydney City Council on 9th December, 1963.

**1100/62 Circular Quay Area - Proposed Development Control Plan
- Conference of Interested Parties**

That consideration of the Development Control Plan for the Circular Quay Area of the City prepared by the Principal Planning Officer, City Engineer's Department, in collaboration with Professor D. Winston, Professor of Town and Country Planning, The University of Sydney, be deferred, and that a conference of representatives of the Council, the Government of New South Wales, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the Sydney Cove Area Improvements Committee and any other interested parties including owners and ratepayers in respect of land affected by the proposal, be arranged for the purpose of discussing all aspects of the question of the replanning of the area.

The Public Relations Committee thinks that this meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for the Institute's representative(s) to demonstrate the concern felt by responsible members of the Profession that redevelopment of this or any other areas of the City follow the most enlightened principles of modern city planning practice.

It is considered that the proper redevelopment of the city centre of Sydney requires the preparation of comprehensive block plans rather than piecemeal development proposals. Such comprehensive plans should be prepared within the framework of a City Planning Scheme which takes account of the need for control of the amount and use of floor space and adequate provision for traffic circulation.

Members of the Public Relations Committee have examined the Schemes referred to in the Council motion and have noted with approval that the Scheme sponsored by the Sydney Cove Area Improvements Committee incorporates the following objectives:-

- (1) Improved circulation for pedestrian and vehicular traffic with a substantial reduction in conflict between the two.

- (ii) The consolidation of land ownership into larger units which permit more economic and efficient development.
- (iii) The regard given to the historical association of the area in the treatment of the water frontage of Sydney Cove and the provision for public squares and open spaces.
- (iv) The careful attention paid to the relationship between buildings and the achievement of a human scale of buildings and an overall unity of design.
- (v) The practical proposals designed to facilitate the implementation of the project.

The P.R. Committee is strongly and unanimously of the feeling that the alternative scheme prepared by the City Council's Principal Planning Officer is mediocre and unworthy of serious consideration.

The date for the proposed conference has not yet been fixed and on present information will probably not be held until early March. This leaves time for a policy or an attitude to be formulated. The Public Relations Committee would like to see Chapter Council endorse the Sydney Cove Area Improvements Committee Scheme or any alternative scheme which embodied the objectives noted above. This would demonstrate the Institute's concern that development of this kind be clearly in the public interest and of an imaginative type which would encourage the creation of good architecture in a well arranged city. The policy decided on by this Chapter Council should be conveyed to the Minister for Local Government with whom ultimate authority rests as well as to the Meeting to be arranged by the City Council.

The responsibility of being asked by the City Council as a responsible professional body to formulate and give serious and decided consideration to the problems of redevelopment should not be taken lightly. The Public Relations Committee thinks that complaints about the public standing and low status of the profession are justified if the profession does not attempt to provide a lead to the community in matters such as this.

Noted J.B. 6.2.64.