

## DAILY TELEGRAPH

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## Council hopes for park at 'Loo

The City Council will ask the State Planning Authority to assist in acquiring five acres of land in Woolloomooloo for use as a park.

The land is bounded by Dowling, Forbes and Cathedral Streets.

The Commonwealth Government had proposed to erect a \$50 million office complex on the site and a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works was set up to investigate the proposal.

The inquiry finished recently.

Alderman L. Port (Civic Reform) said yesterday there were reports circulating that the committee had decided against the complex.

"If this is right it is a brilliant opportunity for the council and the State Planning Authority to create a public park on this site," he said.

## Council may buy office site for park

Sydney City Council will consider buying 5½ acres of Commonwealth-owned land at Woolloomooloo for a public reserve.

The Federal Government had planned to build a \$50 million office block on the site to house 15,000 public servants.

The site bounded by Dowling, Holt, Spring and Cathedral Streets has been owned by the Federal Government since 1950.

The plan for the offices has been strongly criticised by the ALP, the NSW Housing Commission and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

Alderman L. Port said at last night's council meeting that the Woolloomooloo redevelopment made no provision for such a large-scale reserve.

He said it now seemed that the Government had abandoned its plans for the office block.

"Council should request the State Planning Authority to assist with the acquisition of the Commonwealth-owned land," he said.

"Terraces and plazas are included in the project, but no consolidated open parkland — a major item which is sadly missing from the project.

"Such a park would become the nucleus for public amenities. We won't get a chance like this again."