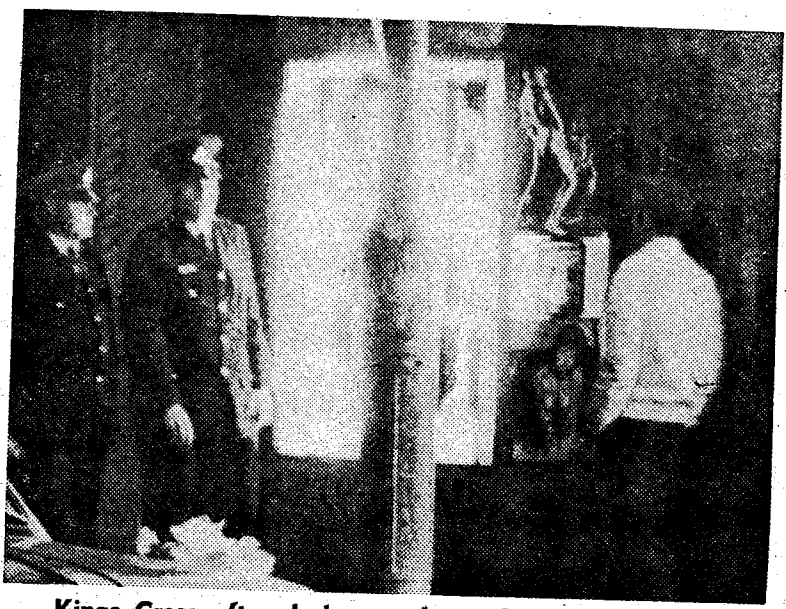


DON'T BANISH THE GIRLS, SAYS EXPERT

Sunday Mirror Nov 26 72



Kings Cross after dark . . . keep the girls, clubs and character, pleads planning expert.

Plan for Cross

Prostitutes and strip clubs are an important part of the life of Kings Cross, the project director of Sydney City Council's plan for the Cross, Mr Darrel Conybeare, said this week.

"I wouldn't like to see the strip clubs closed," he told the Sunday Mirror.

"We are trying to encourage a diversity of life in the area and I don't think anything is to be gained by hounding and controlling people round there."

Magical quality

Mr Conybeare said he would recommend to the City Council that prostitutes in the area should be properly licensed in order to retain some sort of control over their activities.

Mr Conybeare has just finished taking an inventory of the 48 acres of Kings Cross and has received the results of the 5250 questionnaires he sent out to local residents.

"We discovered there are 25 motels, 14 public hotels, 45 private hotels, 96 restaurants, 10 night clubs, eight cafes, a cinema, a theatre and a wax-works show," he said.

"We are now going to work out a plan to try and make the area into an entertainment precinct which will be designed to attract people, particularly foreign visitors, to Kings Cross."

Foreign movies

"The fact that people can accept a wide range of differing persons in the Cross is one of its magical qualities."

"But lately tourists have been complaining that the Cross is not all it has been cracked up to be, and say it is less exciting than they had been led to believe."

Part of Mr Conybeare's recommendations will in-

clude a plan for a street of open-air sidewalk cafes in Roslyn St, and more theatres and cinemas which could show foreign movies.

Mr Conybeare, who is an architect and urban designer, was born in Sydney and lived for many years in Double Bay.

"I have a great affection for Kings Cross," he told the Sunday Mirror.

"I would like to see it

revitalised and more people encouraged back to live in the area.

"We must therefore improve the quality of what the area has to offer."

Mr Conybeare's recommendations will not be ready to lay before the City Council for another 12 months, by which time he will have devoted a year and a half to the project.

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