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Memorandum/instruction

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SMH 30/6/72

Sydney's plan

SIR, — I was very interested to read a letter ("Herald," June 26) by the consultants of the City of Sydney strategic plan and to see that they attempt to refute the comments made by Neville Gruzman (June 22).

I, too, have carefully examined the strategic plan and, on my reading of it, priority 12B very clearly recommends that Olympic standard sports facilities are a thing to be aimed for in the Showground/Moore Park/Centennial Park area. Almost anyone who reads priority 12B, except perhaps the consultants, is likely to believe that this is what the plan envisages.

While the plan does specifically refer to the non-alienation of parkland, because of its apparent inadequacies in not exploring the practicality of the Olympic idea in this area it has contributed to precisely what any reasonable person would expect to happen: that is, somebody coming along proposing Olympic standard facilities, filching parkland and destroying the area with the traffic which will inevitably be attracted to such a development.

There has been much comment on the shocking Woolloomooloo proposals and this is something which must either be permissible under the strategic plan as the City Council has approved it, or they are ignoring the plan completely. Whatever the situation, we seem to be getting a monstrous development even though we have a plan which is supposed to be protecting us.

The question must enter everybody's mind that if this further manifestation of the strategic plan is the result of the extended city development, then we are likely to end up with, then there must be something very wrong with the strategic plan.

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