

THE CIVIC REFORM ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY LIMITED

Fifty-First Annual Report 1972





RT. HON. THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
ALDERMAN DAVID GRIFFIN, C.B.E.
1973

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

THE CIVIC REFORM ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY LIMITED

Established 1921

POLICY

- To work for good government for the City of Sydney.
- To attract and sponsor the services of persons of ability and integrity as aldermen of the Sydney City Council who will achieve better standards for the city.
- To resist the intrusion of party politics into City Government.
- To support plans to enhance the prestige of the city. To create a living, thriving capital city — a city to attract people to live and work in it and to attract tourists.
- To plan the orderly development of the city and encourage authorities to integrate planning.
- To maintain a stimulating influence upon governments in matters affecting city administration.
- To be a voice for the citizens of Sydney.

COUNCIL and OFFICE-BEARERS, 1971/1972

President: Mr. ALEX L. RIGBY, E.D.
Immediate Past President: Mr. HUGH DIXSON
Vice-Presidents: *Mr. A. H. URQUHART, C.B.E.
 Mr. W. J. HOLT
Honorary Treasurers: Sir JOHN O'NEILL, C.B.E.
 Mr. D. O. ANDERSON

Council:

Sir Daniel Aarons, O.B.E., M.C.	Sir John Dunlop, K.B.E. Dr. Miles Hayvatt, E.D.	*Mr. O.D.A. Oberg, C.M.G.
Mr. W. C. Anderson	*Mr. Charles Lloyd Jones	Mr. Brian J. D. Page
Mr. Lynn Arnold	Mr. H. Kallinikos	Colonel E. T. Penfold, O.B.E., E.D.
Sir John Austin	Mr. G. B. Kater	Sir William Pettingell, Kt., C.B.E.
Mr. Harold J. Baker	Mr. Cecil Kyle, O.B.E.	Mr. George Proud
*Mr. W. S. Bengtson	Mr. J. F. R. Lawes	Mr. N. H. Routley, C.B.E.
Sir John Hall Best	Mr. Max E. Lawrence	*Mr. Tresco G. Rowe
*Mr. W. J. Bryant	Mr. John D. Lewis	Mr. Brian J. Scanlen
Mr. F. S. Buckley, O.B.E.	Major-General Sir Denzil Macarthur-Onslow, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.	Mr. D. T. Simpson, D.F.C.
Mr. R. C. Clark	Mr. J. S. Millner	Mr. H. B. Staniland
Mr. Max Colard	Sir William Morrow, Kt., D.S.O., E.D.	*Mr. D. R. Stevens
Sir Norman Cowper, C.B.E.	*Mr. D. A. Noakes	Dr. Hugh Taylor
Mr. David H. Crane	Mr. Graham Nock	Mr. Graham Thorp, M.C.
Sir Robert Crichton- Brown, Kt., C.B.E.		
Mr. John Darling		

* Representatives of affiliated organisations.

Director: Mr. Walter Spooner, Mr. W. Alvan Tracey O.B.E.	Field Organiser:	Honorary Auditors: Messrs. Parsons, Anderson & Co.	Honorary Solicitors: Messrs. Allen, Allen and Hemsley
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THE CIVIC REFORM ASSOCIATION ALDERMEN (SYDNEY CITY COUNCIL)

The Lord Mayor of Sydney — Rt. Hon. Alderman Sir Emmet McDermott, K.B.E.
(Macquarie Ward)
Deputy Lord Mayor — Alderman Nicholas Shehadie, O.B.E. (Macquarie Ward)
 Alderman Norman Barraclough (Gipps Ward)
 Alderman Andrew Briger (Fitzroy Ward) — Chairman City Development Committee.
 Alderman David Griffin, C.B.E. (Gipps Ward) — Chairman Finance Committee
 Alderman John Harris (Gipps Ward) — Chairman Works Committee
 Alderman S. Carr Hordern (Macquarie Ward)
 Alderman Barry L. Lewis (Fitzroy Ward)
 Alderman E. S. Owens, O.B.E. (Gipps Ward)
 Alderman W. S. Pascoe (Macquarie Ward)
 Alderman Mrs. Joan Pilone (Fitzroy Ward) — Chairman Community Services
 Committee
 Alderman Leo W. Port (Fitzroy Ward)

THE CIVIC REFORM ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY LIMITED

23A King Street
Sydney

G.P.O. Box 760
Sydney 2001
290 1700

10th November, 1972.

The Annual General Meeting of the Civic Reform Association of
Sydney Limited
will be held in the Robert H. Todd Assembly Hall,
B.M.A. House, 135 Macquarie Street,
Sydney,
on Friday, 1st December, 1972,
at 11.30 a.m.

BUSINESS:

1. To receive the Financial Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30th June, 1972, and the report of the Honorary Auditors thereon.
2. To receive the President's Report.
3. To elect the Council of the Association for the ensuing year.
4. To appoint an Hon. Auditor or Hon. Auditors and an Hon. Solicitor or Hon. Solicitors for the ensuing year.
5. To deal with any other business which may be brought before the meeting and of which due notice has been given.

WALTER SPOONER, Director.

the field of Local Government that the Office-Bearers have not yet been able to select and employ a person to take Mr. Spooner's place.

Therefore Mr. Spooner will remain as Director on a restricted basis until a replacement is found and appointed.

I especially wish to mention Mr. Alvan Tracey, our Field Organiser. Mr. Tracey is highly skilled in local government affairs and has been of very great assistance to Mr. Spooner and myself throughout the year. Earlier in 1972 Mr. Tracey married and to him and his wife we extend our hearty felicitations for many many years of happiness.

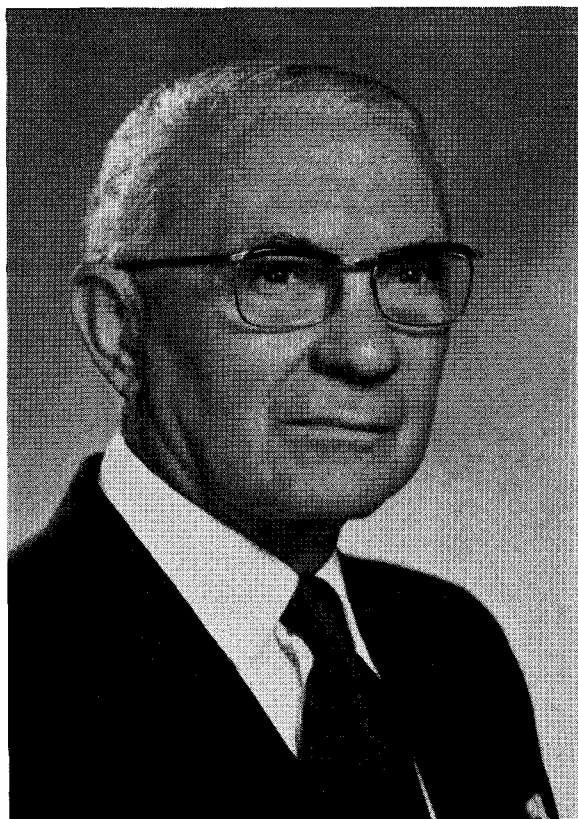
I wish to place on record most sincere thanks to Mrs. Sue Gogarty who has been of invaluable assistance to Mr. Spooner throughout the year. Her quiet efficiency and pleasant attitude have done much to ensure that our office has run smoothly.

The body of this Annual Report sets out in detail the work that the Association has been undertaking during the current year. Many of our activities are not here recorded but may I assure you we are ever working to assist our aldermanic team "behind the scenes" in every possible way.

Finally, may I thank the Council and Executive for their great assistance to me on so many occasions in so many ways throughout the year, and I take this opportunity to wish all our members and supporters, the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Aldermen the heartiest of Christmas Greetings and a joyful and peaceful New Year.

ALEX. L. RIGBY
President

10th November, 1972.



WALTER SPOONER, O.B.E.
DIRECTOR — CIVIC REFORM ASSOCIATION
1957-1972

Members will be aware that our Director, Mr. Walter Spooner, intends to retire from full time duty with the Association at the end of this month. After 15 years as Director, the Association will be deeply in his debt for many years to come. I frankly admit that it would not have been possible for me to have carried out my responsibilities without his ever ready help, wise counsel and personal friendship and I do wish to record the Association's deep debt of gratitude for his assiduous attention to detail over the whole of his term of office.

We shall miss his full time presence greatly and hope he and Mrs. Spooner will be given good health to enjoy some respite from the arduous but pleasurable responsibilities they have both shared in the Association's interest for so long.

Much time has been given this year to finding a successor for Mr. Spooner but such is the type of person with knowledge and background in

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Traditionally, a non-election year such as 1972 which has followed involvement in the campaigning leading to the Sydney City Council elections in September last, has been a type of "R. & R. period". A time in which, whilst not relaxing, to regroup, to consolidate, and to commence blue-printing policies and methods for the future. Indeed, the "success-story" of our candidates in 1969 — after more than 20 years of frustration — was actually written during the years between triennial local government elections. The thinking and the planning in those periods, in a deliberate and dedicated fashion and supplemented by a strong community involvement, was the catalyst that enabled C.R.A. to attract its strongest ever team of candidates and to receive the financial help and enthusiastic support of the voters, rate-payers and others for the 1969 elections, and again in 1971.

However, our days of comparatively leisurely thinking and planning may perhaps be in the past only. I am in a position to inform you that what I can only describe as a constantly high-octane activity pattern has emerged in 1972; undoubtedly resulting from the tremendous effort and achievements of our Lord Mayor and Aldermen. This has been the crystallising result generated by the plans that they laid down during 1970-1971 in giving effect to their 1969 election platform, and in this report I shall refer separately to their major activities.

This point, I think, is appropriately the moment to remind our members and supporters of the Association's responsibility at all times to continue to help the elected C.R.A. Aldermen by every means possible, nevertheless whilst never attempting to intrude upon their prerogatives, their decisions and their administration. We maintain regular and good interchange of ideas and, speaking for the Association, I express appreciation of this liaison, because quite a few improvements in organisation are the direct result of suggestions from our Aldermen. And I am of the opinion that they in turn recognise the obvious benefits of two-way communication.

In the final analysis, translation of the Association's standing policy into real terms is what actually matters, and I am confident that both the Association's Council and the C.R.A. Aldermen must be satisfied with the results now evident; even though as I have said above, we all seem to be working longer hours in 1972 than in previous non-election years. I know too that the city's community has found favour with the Association's policy which is reproduced in this report.

C.R.A. COUNCIL

Since the last Annual General Meeting, your Council has suffered the loss by death of two C.R.A. stalwarts in the persons of Sir John Hall Best and Mr. W. S. Bengtsson; both having been especially interested and helpful over a period of many years. I know that Members would wish me to record appreciation of the valued services rendered by these two gentlemen.

New members appointed to Council during 1972 are Sir Robert Crichton-Brown, Mr. J. F. R. Lawes, Mr. Brian Scanlen and Mr. H. B. Staniland, each of whom I know bring special qualifications and experience to us and I welcome them on your behalf.

PERSONAL

On New Year's Day, 1972, our Lord Mayor, who had led C.R.A. candidates to victory in two successive City Council elections and who had worked so conscientiously for the City of Sydney, was honoured by the announcement that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had conferred a knighthood upon him. Subsequently, Sir Emmet McDermott, K.B.E., was invested with the award by Her Majesty personally at Buckingham Palace on 29th January, 1972.

The citizens of Sydney have good cause to be grateful for the services rendered by Sir Emmet. So much has been done by him and his colleague C.R.A. Aldermen in so little time, but only in this year of 1972 have we seen some of the exciting projects commence to crystallise. It can truly be said that, due to their inspiration, their work and their influence, "City Government has grown up", and both the ratepayers and the residents of Sydney should, I suggest, be especially mindful of the improvements now in evidence.

In September of this year there were some changes when the Sydney City Council elected its office-bearers for 1973. Sir Emmet McDermott, after three years as Lord Mayor, did not submit his name for re-election and Alderman John Harris relinquished the position of Chairman of the Works Committee. They were replaced by Alderman David Griffin, C.B.E., and Alderman Barry Lewis respectively, and Alderman E. S. Owens, O.B.E., took over the Chairmanship of the Finance Committee. May I, on behalf of the Association and the citizens of Sydney sincerely thank Alderman Sir Emmet McDermott and Alderman John Harris for the tremendous effort that they both put into their respective positions. The last three years have probably been the most arduous in the history of the City of Sydney and they may feel justly proud of their separate achievements.

I would also like to congratulate Alderman Griffin, Alderman Owens and Alderman Lewis on being elected to their new responsibilities and wish them well in the future. As the new Lord Mayor of Sydney we know that Alderman David Griffin will justify his colleagues' faith in him. He has been one of the Association's aldermen in the Sydney City Council for the past 10 years, having been leader of the group until he felt obliged to step down in 1966, due to the pressure of business commitments. A solicitor by profession, and now the Chairman of Directors of a great mining and industrial enterprise, our new Lord Mayor possesses great powers of drive and ability. It is a matter of regret that his true worth had been denied to the City during most of his years since he was first elected in 1962, whilst sitting

plans both now and in the future will be strictly scrutinised by the C.R.A. Aldermen. The Association, as such, expressed no view either for or against the recent suggestions, because this is the province of its Alderman.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is the second report that I have been privileged to present to the members and supporters of C.R.A.

When the Immediate Past President (Mr. Hugh Dixon) invited me to succeed him in office two years ago I fully realised that 1971 would be a year of hectic activity to win the City Council elections. This we did resoundingly under the able and dedicated leadership of the retiring Lord Mayor — Alderman L. Emmet McDermott, now Sir Emmet McDermott, K.B.E.

I must admit that I foresaw 1972 as a year of lesser activity and personal involvement, whereas the time taken and decision-making with the Office-Bearers, Executive and Organisation & Finance Committee and the ever ready help and guidance of the Director, Mr. Walter Spooner has been constant and with a flow of affairs needing attention more or less on a day by day basis.

As far as highlights of the year, I must pay the greatest personal tribute to the retired Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sydney, Sir Emmet and Lady McDermott. Surely their three years in office must be unparalleled in the annals of this great City. Their dedication and attention to every possible detail deserve the highest commendation and I have felt it a great privilege to have been closely associated with them for the past two years.

To the newly elected Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress Alderman David Griffin and Mrs. Griffin we extend most hearty congratulations and assure them of the Association's undivided and continuing support during their period in office, and may I assure them both of my own personal availability to them as President of C.R.A.

One cannot speak in terms too highly of the Deputy Lord Mayor and Mrs. Shehadie. Every popular, extremely hard-working and both giving a personal dedication and vital interest to this, the first City of Australia. May we wish them good health and extend our congratulations upon their re-election to this important office.

To Alderman Stanley Owens who has assumed the Chairmanship of the City Council's Finance Committee and Alderman Barry Lewis, Chairman of the Works Committee, we offer sincere congratulations and to every member of our aldermanic team we extend wishes for a highly successful year in office.

be a case for strong leadership in trade unions but not for intimidatory action, and if only the members of these unions would recognise and have the courage to attend their appropriate meetings in order to replace known communist union leaders with persons prepared to give their priorities to the interests of their members and of the community, then surely we would see an end to the stalemates that have occurred in projects such as the proposed parking station for the Opera House, and the Rocks Redevelopment programme. We have experienced classic examples of the wrong influences that politics bring into Local Government; influences which if not checked soon, will become much stronger. The Government is apparently without adequate powers to deal effectively with communist influence in the unions, and equally apparently the Australian Labor Party seems curiously unaware of the blatant manipulation of workers. In the meantime, the interests of our City are going by default.

TRANSPORT COMMISSION

Before leaving the subjects of planning and redevelopment, I must invite attention to their important corollary of public transport, and to compliment the Premier and the Minister for Transport upon their recent decision to appoint a three-man Transport Commission. These experienced and highly qualified men will know what is needed and what to do, and therefore it would be presumption on my part to forecast any facet of their administration. But I am certain that we may look to the future with confidence and that their decisions, when implemented, will enable housewives, commuters and tourists once again to become city shoppers. This, I suggest, could well be as great an influence as any other, for the success of a new "Uptown Sydney".

SPORTS COMPLEX

Early this year a plan was prepared and published for the State Government for a large Sports Complex on the present site of the Sports Ground/Cricket Ground/Showground. Unfortunately, the plan envisaged an extension of the present areas used, by encroachments into adjoining residential areas and parklands. Whilst the Sydney City Council was not in a position, at that time, to comment upon the proposals, our Aldermen were extremely concerned, on behalf of the residents and the public generally, by what appeared to pose a threat to homes and parklands. Later, invitations for comments on the plans having been requested, the City Council, on the advice of its officers, has expressed its disapproval.

May I direct the attention of our citizens to the following very important component of the Association's policy:

"TO BE A VOICE FOR THE CITIZENS OF SYDNEY"

and in doing so to remind them, in respect of proposals for the redevelopment of the Moore Park environment, that they may be assured that all such

frustrated on the opposition benches of a politically controlled City Council. However, his time has come at last and like his predecessor Sir Emmet McDermott, I know that he will combine a sense of great dedication to his responsibilities, with the high abilities that I also know he possesses. Alderman Stan Owens and Alderman Barry Lewis also have long been associates of the Association and their election to their new positions is some small reward for their long hard work on our behalf.

Finally, whilst on this subject, I must congratulate Alderman Nicholas Shehadie, Alderman Mrs. Joan Pilone and Alderman Andrew Briger in being re-elected as Deputy Lord Mayor, Chairman of Community Services Committee and Chairman of City Development Committee respectively. The fact that they have been re-elected after three years is in itself a testimony to the standard of the work that they have done and are continuing to do. As Deputy Lord Mayor for the past three years Alderman Nicholas Shehadie worked tirelessly and impressively and I know that he will continue to be one of the key men of the team. Also, we must not forget the "back-bench" aldermen, without whose support our team would be unable to function. Their assistance may largely pass unnoticed in public circles but may I assure all of them that the Association and its members are well aware of the work that they perform. Following the 1969 elections we were fortified in the knowledge that each one of the elected C.R.A. aldermen was potentially able to achieve the highly regarded position of Lord Mayor of the premier city of Australia, and this is still the case. Such is the calibre of our Association's aldermen, and our grateful thanks must go to them.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Our aldermen have continued the difficult task of streamlining the administration at the Town Hall. Since first being elected to a majority in 1969 they had constantly been frustrated by the volume of detail which required the attention of the appropriate Committees. Much of this routine detail has now been delegated to the Council's own officers. This also serves the purpose of speeding up different processes.

THE CITY RATE

1972 was the fifth year in succession in which the City Council's rate had remained unaltered. This is a remarkable achievement when it is considered that the City was the only municipal Council in the State able to do this, and also when one considers the enormous increases in the cost of both materials and labour during that time. Each and every one of our aldermen must be given credit for this as during the consideration and preparation of the estimates they are individually allocated certain of Council's services to investigate.

It has been indicated that in 1973 it may not be possible to maintain the rate at its current level, but I assure the City's ratepayers that if it

should become necessary to increase the rate it will be a case of sheer necessity.

THE CITY'S POWERS

During 1972 both the Association and the aldermen have continued to press for the restoration of the City's charter, which was lost to political motives in 1947 after being a cherished possession since 1842. The public and the aldermen are constantly frustrated by the great number of authorities and ad hoc bodies which have grown and which must be consulted on most aspects of the City Council's responsibilities. Frequently the City Council is criticised for apparent undue delays in its administration but when one realises that there are more than 40 other bodies connected with affairs of the City it is not surprising that delays occur. At no stage has it been suggested that the City Council should become a completely independent body but a substantial degree of autonomy must be granted if the City is to be permitted to take its place free of the inhibiting restrictions now imposed upon it.

The present State Government must surely realise that the Council has, in the past three years, come "of age" after 20 years of political nursing, and has proved beyond doubt that it is ready, willing and able to accept the responsibilities of more powers. Recently there has been a great deal of political talk regarding the future of local government, both at State and Federal levels. There is also a State Committee of Inquiry at present investigating all aspects of local government in N.S.W. We sincerely trust that the investigation will justify our claims and that power and authority and possibly the Charter will be returned to the Council of the City of Sydney.

CABINET CHANGE

During the first half of the year 1972 the retirement of the then Minister for Local Government — the Rt. Hon. P. H. (Pat) Morton was announced and in a minor reshuffle of the State Cabinet the position was filled by the former Minister for Education — the Hon. C. B. Cutler, M.L.A. The Association's grateful thanks must be given to the former Minister for his great devotion to the task of returning the City to non-political control. During the time that the legislation to reduce the City's boundaries was passing through the various stages of the State Parliament Mr. Morton bore the brunt of fierce criticism and even personal attack. Despite all of the political manoeuvring from the opposition benches he stood steadfast, and it must be a great consolation to him personally to see the progress that has been made by the City Council during the past three years. His judgment and action have been proved correct but we must remember that our aldermen might not have been given the chance to prove themselves without his personal dedication to the task. In our opinion his decisions were scrupulously fair, and even now we are left with a situation where,

more of the major retail merchants (some have gone already) expressing doubts as to their capacity to maintain profits whilst faced with steeply mounting charges which are pegged to land values. The area north of Bathurst Street is literally becoming the administrative centre not only of the City but of metropolitan Sydney, and as such is losing the vitality engendered by tourists, homes, people and shoppers. This is a matter of economics over which our civic fathers have little, if any, control; but time still remains for special thinking towards a totally new picture for "Uptown Sydney".

PEOPLE ARE NEEDED

First, we must have people in the city; from three sources — tourists, residents and shoppers. And thereafter our retail merchants and entrepreneurs will surely be encouraged to move into "Uptown Sydney". In a sense we should return to the pattern of the early 1900's, when some of Sydney's greatest stores and theatres were constructed south of Bathurst Street, fortified by a then massive inner-city population. The City Council must devise special bonus systems to attract developers in the planning and construction of home unit projects within a two-mile radius east and west of the Central Railway Station, before land values outstrip planning in those localities as has happened in the centre of the city. If this policy can be proved feasible concurrently with action-planning "for Uptown Sydney", a new cosmopolitan city must surely emerge. The one reservation I would have about this vision, however, is the current policy of the State Government which so far has insisted on maintaining its plans to erect a huge Institute of Technology in Ultimo, rather than in some metropolitan location more appropriate for the future. The Central Station-Haymarket area has become a dead heart of the City in the post-war years and an injection of several thousand students would probably perpetuate that condition.

I do sincerely ask our Minister for Education to re-examine the proposals and to weigh what advantages there might appear to be for his Department against the overall interests and progress of our City.

IMPEDIMENT TO PROGRESS

Members and supporters of the Association must be as deeply concerned as are my colleague members of Council and myself with the impediments to progress that have been placed in the way of the City by Trades Union officials who have, tongues in cheek, played the political game to the exclusion of the true industrial functions of their unions. Communists who stir up trouble — to the detriment of both building projects and the workers thereon — by band-waggoning on issues such as conservation and housing, have no rightful place in our great trade union movement. Their position of ascendancy over the members of their unions is substantial and is constantly used for no useful purpose whatever. There must always

of formulae which ultimately will relate building development, street patterns, social amenities, open spaces, the movement and parking of vehicles, transport facilities, pedestrian activity, and the City's economics each with the other, to a pattern of overall land-usage. For the purposes of action-planning the city has been partitioned into precincts, which independent qualified Town Planners have been commissioned to evaluate and report upon. One extremely significant aspect of the procedure that will then follow will be the involving of the general public, and indeed this is being done in advance of the detailed planning, in certain areas. This is practical communication with the people of the city, who are being invited to express their views and opinions and to make recommendations concerning the future of their own particular environments. Substantial good must result from this policy. Every suggestion will be considered, and if worth while and practical, may be incorporated within an Action Plan.

And finally, as the Action Plans are considered and finalised, they will be related to the City's Statutory Plan (the City of Sydney Planning Scheme), view to the adoption by the City Council of appropriate recommendations for variation in land-usage, to be made to the Minister.

UPTOWN SYDNEY

In planning our city, of course, one must keep in mind its relation to metropolitan Sydney; the huge unplanned sprawl contiguous to the central City but subject to entirely different patterns of development and also transport facilities. Despite the areas of conflicting interests, improvements are slowly becoming apparent and more may be anticipated. That most efficient organisation, the Department of Main Roads, is pushing ahead with the Western Distributor Road as fast as funds will permit, and the section recently opened between Day Street and the Harbour Bridge approaches has already given much relief in a most congested area leading to the western and southern suburbs. Progress is now evident in plans for the construction of a new Fruit and Vegetable markets at Flemington, towards the geographical centre of Sydney. With the removal of the markets and the extension of the Western Distributor Roadway to Ultimo, the benefits will be very real. And then the City Council will be free to blueprint a new "Uptown Sydney" from the Town Hall area through the Haymarket and Central Station to the boundaries of Sydney University. Without guessing the outcome, I am sure that the retention of a "Paddys Market" and plans for a "Chinatown" already being made, will be the beginning of the new look that the whole area has been awaiting so long.

Here lies the opportunity perhaps for the City to replace its lost hotels, theatres and living areas in a major replanning operation incorporating practical encouragement to developers to re-site such facilities, which have virtually disappeared from the City and especially from the northern end of the City. Inflationary land values have been the cause, and now we find

should our efforts falter or cease we would soon lose the majority control which we at present enjoy.

The task of the new Minister for Local Government, in continuing the work with the devotion of his predecessor, must indeed be difficult. The Association has had little contact in the past with the Hon. Charles Cutler but we are hoping that in the future we shall be enabled to establish good mutual liaison, and we wish him every success in his new portfolio.

COMMITTEES

Here perhaps I should briefly describe the structure and committees of the Association, which in terms of its incorporation is a non-profit earning body. The Council as elected annually by the members is limited in number to 50; whilst an Executive Committee with a maximum of 15 members in addition to the Office-Bearers, possesses all powers and responsibilities of the Council. Likewise, a sub-committee of the Executive Committee in the shape of the Organisation & Finance Committee, is similarly empowered. Other sub-committees are appointed as necessary from time to time for specific functions.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

In the wards of the City we have sponsored additional committees by organising civic groups, which are "citizen participation movements" designed as links between the Association, its Aldermen, and the local communities. The strongest and most active group — the Central Civic Group — works within the Phillip Ward under the capable and vigorous chairmanship of Mr. Cecil Kyle, O.B.E., an alderman of that ward for many years in the past and now a member of C.R.A. Council and related committees.

The activities of our civic groups in the "dormitory wards" of the city are manifold, but in the main they serve as "clearing houses" for the channelling of information, suggestions and complaints from residents, ratepayers and voters, to the C.R.A. Aldermen. This form of contact has proved most valuable; first, in the interests of the local communities, and second, in enabling our permanent electoral organisation to develop in the areas. There is no doubt that the activities of the Darlinghurst Civic Group within the Fitzroy Ward during 1967/8/9 played a major part in the ability of the C.R.A. candidates to win the ward by four to nil in 1969, and to do so again in 1971, having increased their voting majority substantially.

In both the Phillip Ward and the Flinders Ward, the back-up given by our civic groups to the very fine C.R.A. candidates last year was responsible for a substantial erosion in the A.L.P. majority in both wards. We did not win them, but the 1971 results proved that time is running in our favour and I am confident that in 1974 our candidates will give a very good account of themselves. It is interesting to note that most of our candidates in these wards in 1971 are now, and have been since the elections, active members of the civic groups.

To emphasise the above, a comparative analysis of the voting results for 1969 and 1971 is given hereunder:

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY 1969 & 1971 ELECTION RESULTS

	GIPPS WARD		MACQUARIE WARD		FITZROY WARD		PHILLIP WARD		FLINDERS WARD		TOTALS	
	1969	1971	1969	1971	1969	1971	1969	1971	1969	1971	1969	1971
TOTAL ENROLLED.	5245	4857	6335	5585	11783	10483	11918	10956	10037	9389	45318	41270
FORMAL VOTES. (With percentages.)	845	656	458	326	2201	1861	3024	2685	2190	2004	8718	7532
	(30%)	(26%)	(14%)	(13%)	(41%)	(39%)	(60%)	(58%)	(59%)	(58%)	(44%)	(42%)
	1946	1819	2232	2170	2975	2840	1959	1946	1129	1446	10241	10221
	(70%)	(74%)	(68%)	(87%)	(56%)	(59%)	(40%)	(42%)	(31%)	(42%)	(51%)	(57%)
OTHER.	—	—	601	—	111	62	—	—	380	—	1092	62
			(18%)		(3%)	(1%)			(10%)		(5%)	(1%)
TOTAL FORMAL VOTE AND % OF ENROLLED.	2791	2475	3291	2496	5287	4763	4983	4631	3699	3450	20051	17815
	(53%)	(51%)	(52%)	(45%)	(46%)	(46%)	(42%)	(42%)	(37%)	(37%)	(44%)	(43%)
INFORMAL VOTE AND % OF THOSE VOTING.	114	44	109	56	226	127	272	151	312	168	1033	546
	(4%)	(2%)	(3%)	(2%)	(4%)	(3%)	(5%)	(3%)	(8%)	(5%)	(5%)	(3%)
POSTAL VOTES. (With percentages of formal vote.)	164	71	134	72	559	182	491	707	93	73	1441	1105
	(6%)	(3%)	(4%)	(3%)	(11%)	(4%)	(10%)	(15%)	(2%)	(2%)	(7%)	(6%)
	1661	1564	1940	1811	609	656	1320	1220	308	427	5838	5678
	(60%)	(63%)	(59%)	(73%)	(12%)	(14%)	(26%)	(26%)	(8%)	(13%)	(29%)	(32%)
OTHER.	—	—	263	—	6	1	—	—	55	—	324	1
			(8%)						(1%)		(2%)	

THE VOTING SYSTEM

One particular point of interest in both years is the percentage of total formal votes cast to the number of persons enrolled, ranging from a low of 37% to a high of 53% within the wards; a total for the city of 43% to 44%. I have emphasised this, because in other local governing areas in N.S.W., polling has been as low as 17% and representations have been made to the State Government for a return to the system of compulsory voting. If agreed to, this would be a retrograde step and would serve no useful purpose, as the history of the past 20 years has proved. The thousands upon thousands of people who failed to vote in their Council elections were invariably not prosecuted nor even questioned, even though the Local Government Act then provided for the imposition of penalties.

The answer, I suggest, is that citizens should be encouraged to involve themselves in civic and electoral activities within their own environments. Not necessarily to become candidates for election as Aldermen but as communal groups who will work for local improvements and who will cast their votes at the polls to ensure the election of responsible persons, who in turn may be relied upon to effect those improvements after becoming aldermen. This is the job that your Association has done in the City of Sydney, and will continue to do, I promise.

CITY PLANNING

For more than 20 years, due to the dead hand of organised politics the planning of your city was strictly a non-event. There was not even a planning department within the Town Hall and the so-called "City of Sydney Planning Scheme", first prepared so far back as 1952, remained in the pigeon-holes of successive Ministers, as obviously it was drafted with electoral motive only and not as a plan for land-usage.

As you know, this situation posed what must surely have been the greatest individual problem for a newly elected administration in the history of local government in this country. But it has been dealt with and a new City of Sydney Planning Scheme prepared in consultation with the State Planning Authority was approved by the Minister and proclaimed on 16th July 1971. It is not the ideal document, but it is a beginning. No doubt modifications will be made as time passes, and already the City Council is working towards "rounding off the edges". This becomes possible and is being done, as the various facets of the city's Strategic Plan are examined and implemented. It is necessarily an activity requiring some deliberation and of course some considerable expenditure of ratepayers' funds, but patterns are commencing to emerge.

At present, the operative word is "action-planning" as prescribed by the Strategic Plan, which in itself is a document of recommendation; not a manual of detail. The suggested action-planning encompasses the developing