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Citizen's part in planning schemes

CITIZENS participation was important in planning because everybody should have a part in shaping his own environment, Mr. E. N. Bacon said yesterday.

Mr. Bacon, who was executive director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission from 1949 to 1970 spoke at the 12th Royal Australian Planning Institute Congress at Queensland University.

Mr. Bacon said Australian planners suffered from a lack of self-confidence. Australia should not accept English or American ideas at face value.

"Canberra is the greatest modern American-type city in existence. It gives us a concept for the future," he said.

Warning

Mr. W. G. Clarke, an architect-planner on the Gold Coast, told the congress that a lack of interest by the Prime Minister (Mr. McMahon) in planning could lead Australia into urban and regional development disasters.

"What planners need from the highest executive levels of Government is interest, involvement and participation," he said. "All we want them to do is show willingness to discuss and hear about the problem."

Mr. Clarke said the Gold Coast was in the fourth year of a continual planning process.

Planners first tried to produce a plan which set out images and ideas of what the Gold Coast was, what its problems were, and possible opportunites.

"If planning as a concept can be accepted by the warring factions of the Gold Coast City Council, then planning can succeed anywhere in the world," he said.

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