

Wanted: Your ideas on city

The man whose firm hopes to wave a magic wand over the City of Adelaide within two years arrived from Sydney yesterday.

He is Mr. George Clarke, principal of Urban Systems Corporation Pty. Ltd. which has been hired by the City Council to help plan the Adelaide of the future.

The task, Mr. Clarke said, was to transform an unattractive environment so that people would want to live, work and play in the city, and tourists would want to come here to share "the good life."

The role was not that of a Colonel Light, but that of a catalyst in "releasing the energies and tal-

ents of Adelaide people in the shaping of their own city."

Mr. Clarke's firm will officially start work here on February 1.

He has come to Adelaide now to spread the message that he wants local people to become closely involved in the process.

He wants to meet them and hear their ideas for making the city a better place.

"We will ask the City Council to establish a community planning headquarters for the city which will be open every day to the public . . . where the latest ideas and sketches of the planners would be put on display, so the public can see the progress," he said.

"We want to involve hundreds and possibly thousands of Adelaide people in the planning process.

"We will do this through letters to ratepayers and residents and orga-

**By Civic Reporter
MAXWELL WHITING**

nisations throughout the metropolitan area, and also through seminars and exhibitions.

"I am open to receive correspondence, ideas, proposals and suggestions. They can be addressed to me care of the Adelaide Town Hall.

"We will want to employ the talents of Adelaide people . . . those particularly with skills in the fields of planning, urban geography, urban economics, sociology and design, planning legislation and urban ecology and environmental control and architecture.

"I am sure there is a large reservoir of talented people who would be interested in working on this project."

Mr. Clarke said that although the city had become unattractive it was less affected than other cities, particularly in the US.

The first four months of the 18-month project would be spent in the collection of data.

Then the problems and the opportunities for the city would be looked at and priorities decided.

It was fairly certain that the depopulation of the city over recent decades had been caused by the fact that people could find, very close to the city, pleasant houses in attractive tree-lined streets.

By contrast, the city had a mixture of residential and commercial premises, streets had been widened, footpaths had been narrowed, and there was an absence of street trees.

One of the quickest ways to attract residents and visitors to the

city would be to "go after" a lot of low-cost "street-scaping" improvements.

This would mean the planting of more trees.

After studying traffic patterns it might be possible to concentrate vehicles in major streets and widen footpaths in minor streets, and add trees and seats for people to enjoy.

Adelaide, like some other cities, had a high proportion of socially disadvantaged people, and was a refuge for them because there were cheap boarding houses.

The city would need to maintain its protective role while attracting more people to achieve a better cross-section of the human family in the city.

Ways to transform Adelaide into a 24-hour city would have high priority.

**ONLY A FEW WEEKS
TO GET READY
FOR YOUR
VACATION..**



Mr. Clarke.