

Changes in Rocks plans could raise union ban

The Royal Australian Planning Institute (NSW Division) which criticised initial redevelopment proposals for the East Rocks yesterday welcomed revised plans by the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority.

This has given rise to hopes that the Builders Labourers' Federation, which has been partly influenced by the institute's criticisms, will lift its black ban on the redevelopment.

However, an organiser of the federation, Mr J. Owens, said last night that the union's attitude still hinged on a public meeting next Monday.

He said architects from the institute would explain the changes to the meeting, which would be attended by a residents' group and parliamentarians.

The black ban would almost certainly be lifted if the public meeting favoured the new plans.

The revised plans were explained to the institute on Friday night

by officers and planning consultants to the redevelopment authority.

An institute statement yesterday said the new plans were significantly different from the authority's scheme published and approved by the State Government in 1971.

An institute report on the original plans made several criticisms.

The institute's president, Mr George Clarke, said his organisation commended the authority for the trend evident in changes being made.

This particularly applied to the reduction of commercial office space, the increased preservation of historic buildings and the provision of social and entertainment facilities for the area north of Argyle Street.



Mr Clarke

These were some of the areas of specific criticism by the institute. Mr Clarke said the

new plans were part of a continuing process of reassessment by the authority.

The institute would study them and had referred them to its environment sub-committee for detailed consideration.

The institute also called on the authority to publish and exhibit immediately details of the new plans so the public could take part more fully in the continued planning for The Rocks.

DRIVER AWASH AFTER CRASH

For 34-year-old Eddie Gaut it was an unscheduled Sunday bath when the 2,000-gallon water tanker he was driving overturned at the Liverpool speedway yesterday afternoon.

Mr Gaut, who was previously a stock car champion at the circuit, was spraying the track after the

car time trials when the mishap occurred.

The \$5,000 tanker went out of control entering a corner at 40 m.p.h. and overturned three times.

"My main concern was not being thrown from the vehicle but being drowned in the cabin," a shaken Mr Gaut told rescuers.