

1972

THE AUSTRALIAN, Thursday, August 24, 1972-9

Praise for planning on Coast

THE Gold Coast City Council had proved professional planning could succeed under the most difficult circumstances, a planning expert said yesterday.

"If planning can be accepted by the warring factors on the Gold Coast City Council it can succeed anywhere in the world," the managing director of Clarke Gizzard Planners Pty Ltd, Mr George Clarke, yesterday told the congress of the Australian Planning Institute in Brisbane.

In planning for the Gold Coast to solve existing community problems and plan for future development his company had consulted private citizens and special interest groups in the community as well as local politicians, he said.

Bumblefooted

It had treated planning as a process in which the planner learned from the community instead of setting out rigid objectives which did not take into account social and political realities, he said.

"Our concept of planning as a continuous feedback and learning process has led to the enthusiastic interest of everyone involved no matter how much they abuse each other," Mr Clarke said.

He said the Gold Coast

Council and the community were in their fourth year of a continuous planning process and advancing at a satisfactory rate.

"They are what we may think of as the third class of the community planning primary school, having spent their first year in the kindergarten of a very simple strategic plan," Mr Clarke said.

But many planners were naive and bumblefooted in introducing their policies, he said.

'Lack of interest'

THE Federal Government was allowing Australia to drift into a state of urban and regional development disaster, a planner said yesterday.

"There is a lack of involvement or interest by the Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the entire Federal Government in planning," Mr Clarke said at yesterday's congress.

"What we need from the Prime Minister is a willingness to discuss the problems of urban development," he said.

Mr McMahon had consistently refused to meet Local Government representatives on the grounds that Local Government was a State matter, he said.

GC's paper at
1972 RADI
Congress on
community planning
as a continuous
feedback &
learning
process.

