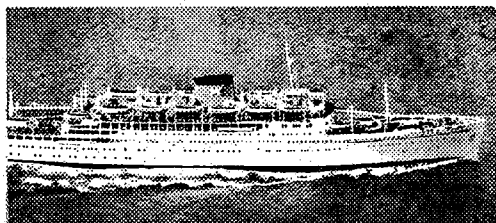


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## Prices bill disturbing — Wentworth

A former Federal minister has attacked the Government's Prices Justification Bill as "disturbing" and "disquieting."

Mr W. C. Wentworth, Minister for Social Services in the previous Government, said the bill, which provides for machinery to set up an official price-checking body, would establish a tribunal which was "uncontrolled and uncontrollable."

The bill passed through the House of Representatives this week after the Opposition had criticised but not opposed it.

It will now go before the Senate.

In a statement Mr Wentworth said Government tactics had "railroaded" the bill through the House with only 122 minutes debate.

The Government estimated that about 350 companies would be expected to provide notice of price rises. This, however, would involve "many tens of thousands (perhaps hundreds of thousands) of items."

"A department store, for example, carries a tremendous number of lines, and if its supplier increased the price of any one, it would, under the present bill, be unable to adjust its selling price without reference to a tribunal," he said.



Mr Wentworth

The tribunal could initiate an inquiry.

The tribunal's members would receive the same protection and immunity as a High Court judge. This would give them "immense powers of mischief."

Mr Wentworth said that under the guise of a Prices Justification Bill, the Government was constructing the framework for a system of "kangaroo" or "peoples" courts.

He hoped that the Senate would scrutinise details of the legislation.

In the House of Representatives the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Snedden, said a fine of \$10,000 could be imposed if prices were raised without the consent of the tribunal. But the fines were only payable if the increase occurred before the tribunal said the company should not raise the price.

• Price fears, Page 6

## New look plans for Kings Cross

SMH Sat 19.5.1973

By Our Civic Reporter

Plans by Sydney City Council to rejuvenate the Kings Cross-Potts Point area could begin to go into effect within six months.

The plans include blocking nearly the width of Darlinghurst Road to traffic between William Street and Roslyn Street, creating a huge pedestrian mall.

Only a single traffic lane will remain under the proposals for tourist coaches and service vehicles.

Footpath cafes, parks and plazas have been put forward by the council's planning consultants as a means of enhancing the character of Kings Cross.

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Griffin, gave details yesterday of some of the proposals the council is considering.

These proposals, in the form of a draft planning scheme, will be exhibited for a month from Tuesday in the arcade level of the Kingsgate Centre of Kings Cross.

The public will be asked to inspect the exhibit and contribute ideas for a final planning scheme which the council hopes to adopt formally within six months.

The proposals include: Initially widening the

## PUBLIC TO HAVE A SAY

footpaths in Darlinghurst Road to allow sidewalk cafes and tree planting.

Two-way traffic will remain until the opening of the Kings Cross road tunnel next year, when it will be possible to further widen the eastern side of Darlinghurst Road, leaving a one-way service road for north-bound vehicles.

A second level of pedestrian walks is recommended along the awning of buildings on the western side of the street, and a covered pedestrian bridge could cross the street at the first-floor level.

Provision may be made for a mono-rail to run at the first-level along the eastern side of Darlinghurst Road.

An open-air flea market, based on the principle of London's popular Petticoat Lane, may be allowed to operate in Darlinghurst Road.

A triangle-shaped park and plaza will be established at the corner of Darlinghurst Road and

Roslyn Street, opposite the Les Girls Theatre Restaurant. An allocation of \$16,900 for this part of the scheme is expected to be made by the council on Monday.

Other proposals in the planning scheme will affect Elizabeth Bay, Potts Point and Fitzroy Gardens.

According to the planning consultants, the building alignment in Macleay Street, Potts Point, if set back 15ft, would enhance the area and allow further sidewalk cafes and tree planting.

Elizabeth Bay, one of the City's most distinctive residential areas, had cramped, poorly identified and badly lit pedestrian ways, according to the plans.

Careful design of street lamps and paving materials could improve their appearance, while conserving the better qualities.

Fitzroy Gardens may be extended 30 per cent by blocking to traffic Elizabeth Bay Road between the Darlinghurst Road intersection and Baroda Street.

A plaza is also being considered across part of Macleay Street on the southern edge of Fitzroy Gardens.

Forms seeking ideas and suggestion boxes will be provided at the exhibition.