

Factory suburbs may be peopled

Our Civic Reporter

Some of Sydney's poorest suburbs, including Crippenfield, Lilliana, Belmont and Sunnybank, are to be developed as choice residential areas.

Their redevelopment will be urged in a new master plan being prepared for Sydney City Council.

The master plan — a revised version of the Sydney Strategic Plan — will point out that these suburbs will need a greater residential population if the city is to remain a busy commercial centre.

They have not appealed to many home-seekers because of inadequate parking facilities and the hundreds of unattractive factories and workshops they contain.

Most industries will be phased out by council zoning changes and the sites redeveloped for housing, according to recommendations to be contained in the plan.

Scheduled for com-

pletion by mid-1974, the plan's policies are being laid down by a steering committee.

The committee is being chaired by Alderman Ashton, chairman of the council's city development committee.

Its members are the chairman of the State Planning Authority, Mr N. A. Ashton; the Deputy Lord Mayor, Alderman B. Lewis; the under secretary of the Department of Local Government, Mr F. Pogson; the under secretary of the Department of Public Transport, Mr K. Trotter; the chairman of the council works committee, Alderman L. Port; and the council's planning consultant, Mr G. Clarke.

The plan will set out the policies for the council to follow for at least three years. It will supersede a similar plan adopted by the council in 1971.

Some radical proposals the steering committee is considering are:

Limitations on the number of new office buildings in the city. Some members of the steering

committee believe the city already has sufficient office space to cater for at least another 10 years.

Construction of a series of new bypass roads around the outskirts of the city.

Fast improvements to public transport in the city, possibly with rapid transport systems between the commercial and residential areas.

The committee has been told the poorer inner-city suburbs will need to be revitalised if they are to attract new residents, and new residents will be needed to staff city business houses, offices, restaurants, transport services, public authorities, hotels and essential services.

It has been told that, by having a big local population, the city will not need to depend on finding employees in outer suburbs and that heavy demands on public transport and the number of private vehicles entering the city will be reduced if the employees live locally.