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\$100,000 CIVIC SQUARE IN CITY APPROVED

A \$100,000 civic square for pedestrians in Martin Place was recommended for approval in principle by the City Council's City Development Committee yesterday.

The scheme was first submitted to the City Commissioner in August, 1968, by the Civic Reform Association but was deferred.

It calls for the closing of Martin Place between Pitt and George Streets to all vehicular traffic and paving the area for pedestrians with the Cenotaph the focal point.

Alderman L. W. Port (Civic Reform) told the committee more trees would be planted and seating and other amenities would be provided.

"Sydney has nothing at the moment—this will give it a heart," he said.

The deputy-Lord Mayor, Alderman N. M. Shehadie, said the scheme would be "wonderful" for Sydney.

"This could be the forerunner of others. I would like to see this done in other streets where we can have a little Paris with kerbside coffee tables and coloured umbrellas and kiosks," he said.

The scheme was attacked by Alderman S. J. Fegan (A.L.P.) as being "the most miserable scheme I have ever seen."

Calling it unworthy of Sydney, he said: "It is a mini-square — everyone seems to think mini these days."

Alderman Fegan said the A.L.P. had for years advocated pulling down the Queen Victoria building and forming a square.

Alderman Shehadie said: "Yes, and for the past eight years all you did was defer it—we want to go ahead and do something constructive."

The committee recommended that Clarke Gazard and Partners be engaged to bring the plan up to date.

The committee also recommended the establishment of a sub-committee comprising Aldermen A. Briger, L. W. Port, J. Harris and S. J. Fegan to investigate the proposed master development plan for the city.