

12  
Sep 1968

# NO TRAFFIC IN MARTIN PLACE—PLAN

By the Civic Roundsman

**Plans to make Martin Place a civic square between Pitt and George Streets will receive "speedy and favorable" consideration from Sydney City Council.**

The Chief City Commissioner (Mr. V. H. Treatt) promised this yesterday.

Construction of the civic square will take only four months and cost a "trifling" \$175,000.

A deputation from the Civic Reform Association, Sydney University and an architectural firm presented the plans to Mr. Treatt in the Town Hall.

## Deputation

The deputation included Mr. Hugh Dixon, CRA president, Professor Denis Winston, Sydney University's Dean of Architecture and Town Planning and Mr. Don Gazzard, of Clarke Gazzard and Partners.

They said the plan:

- Eliminated through vehicular traffic from Martin Place between Pitt and George Streets.
- Paved the square in selected Australian stone and marble from building to building, eliminating existing footpaths.
- Doubled the number of trees now lining the area.

- Provided an "all-purpose civic square suitable for both gay festivities and dignified ceremonies."

- Had received "enthusiastic support" from GPO officials, private property owners, RSL leaders, police and Government traffic authorities, town planners and developers.

Mr. Dixon said traffic engineers had conducted a survey which showed that very little through traffic used this section of Martin Place.

Vehicles now using the area created a bottleneck at the T junction with George Street, he said.

Only one bus route, from Elizabeth Bay to Wynyard, used the area, and could easily be diverted to Hunter Street and King Street.

"The proposal actually would improve the traffic flows along Pitt Street and George Street," Mr. Dixon said.

"The proposal provides Sydney with the

type of civic square—pedestrian boulevard for leisurely strolling it so desperately needs."

Professor Winston said the proposal would complement and increase the dignity of the GPO and the Cenotaph, and the ceremonies held there.

"The anxiety of pedestrians to get away from cars has been amply demonstrated by the success of Australia Square," he said.

"Martin Place is already the spiritual heart of Sydney.

"This will make it the living heart."

Mr. Gazzard said existing flower stalls and news stands, suitably redesigned, would continue to operate and provide color as well as service for increased numbers of people.

Seats for the public, light standards and litter bins also would be redesigned to lift the square to international standards.