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Big Companies Back Move For Quay Development Scheme

A group of big companies has formed a committee to work for a Circular Quay planning scheme.

The committee consists of representatives of Lend Lease Corporation Ltd., Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand Ltd., Unilever Australia Pty. Ltd., Australian Mutual Provident Society, British Tobacco Co. Australia Ltd. and the Macquarie Club, and the Professor of Town and Country Planning at Sydney University, Professor Denis Winston.

The first four companies occupy multi-storey office blocks at east Circular

Quay, and British Tobacco plans to build in the same area.

The committee, the Sydney Cove Area Improvements Committee, wants a plan to restrict future multi-storey building around the Quay.

The plan also would provide for improvement of access to the area and beautification of Alfred Street and Customs House Square.

Preparation Of Plan

The Town Planning Department of Sydney University, under Professor Winston, has prepared a plan for the Quay in consultation with other town planners.

Professor Winston declined to discuss the plan yesterday.

Other sources said the committee feared that unless a plan was adopted to restrict future development, a wall of tall buildings would block views of the Harbour and the Opera House, and cut off cooling north-easterly breezes to the central city.

Australia Square

A deputation from the Builders' Labourers' Federation asked the Minister for Local Government, Mr P. D. Hills, yesterday to support a speedy, favourable decision on the Australia Square project because it would employ about 800 building workers.

An organiser of the union, Mr S. A. Winter, said later the deputation had suggested that Mr Hills write to the council asking it to make

a speedy decision on the project, and Mr Hills had agreed to do this.

Mr Winter said Mr Hills told the deputation that he favoured block development.

Mr Hills had said that if the City Council rejected the building application, the developers had the right to appeal directly to him under section 342Y of the Local Government Act.

A subsidiary of Lend Lease Development Corporation Ltd. has applied to the City Council to build the Australia Square project on the site bounded by George, Pitt, Bond and Little George Streets.

The project, estimated to cost between £12 and £15-million, will have a central tower building 600ft high.

Committee To Give Views

The City Council works and planning committees are expected to consider the building application again next Monday.

The Building Heights Committee, which is administered by the Chief Secretary's Department, must approve any city building over 150ft in height.

The chairman of the Building Heights Committee, Mr H. G. Kingsmill, said yesterday: "The committee has not approved or rejected any application on the Australia Square project."

"The views of the committee will be conveyed to the Lord Mayor in the near future."

ILLABO RATE

JUNEE, Wednesday.—Illabo Shire Council has fixed the 1962 rate at 54d in the pound.