

PLAN NEEDED TO SHAPE CITY'S DEVELOPMENT

The next few years by a new development present an unrivalled scheme for The Rocks. opportunity for planning the future appearance of the city of Sydney. Involved in this are the creation of squares and open spaces through the demolition of buildings or their removal to other sites and the regulation of building heights, so as to avoid unbalance and to achieve the greatest aesthetic effect. Both of these aspects must be planned to accord with the best possible use of such broad and spacious streets as the city possesses.

In a recent article, Mr J. H. Shaw, of the University of New South Wales, drew attention—as Mr Harold Smith does in our correspondence columns today—to the need for an overall plan to control the city's development. He also pointed out that a high degree of skill, imagination and co-ordination on the part of the various Government committees and the City Council would be necessary to achieve the desired result. A number of different areas of the city would form parts of an overall plan.

For example, there is the Macquarie Street-Martin Place area, with the possibility of opening up a vista from Martin Place through to the Domain by the removal to another site of Sydney Hospital. There is the Australia Square project in the lower Pitt and George Streets area. Finally, and perhaps most important, is the historic Sydney Cove area, which will be bounded on the east side by the Opera House and on the west

The Minister for Local Government, Mr Hills, has quite rightly laid down that the City Council should refer to him for decision any interim development application for the Quay area. He has said that his purpose is to "ensure that, pending preparation of a scheme for the locality, development will be of the highest standard in keeping with its importance as the gateway to the city." He has also directed the council to prepare a development control plan for the area.

It is both timely and stimulating that the Sydney Cove Area Improvements Committee, which consists of a number of companies vitally interested in the area, has recently shown the City Council the model of a scheme which it has had prepared by the Department of Town and Country Planning at the University of Sydney. This scheme could well form the basis for the plan which the City Council is to prepare and it is presumed that, in the drawing up of this plan, the council will take full advantage of the opinion of architects and town-planners.

However, it cannot be too strongly urged that plans for different sections of the inner city should be co-ordinated into one general plan, as in many ways they are all dependent on one another. In this way, it is to be hoped, Sydney will become a city worthy to take her place among the great and beautiful cities of the world.