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Title:

Speech at the opening of City of Adelaide Planning Centre

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, AT THE OPENING OF CITY OF ADELAIDE
PLANNING CENTRE.

24.10.73

MY LORD MAYOR, MR GAZZARD, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:
I WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE LORD MAYOR'S INVITATION TO BE HERE
TODAY AND TO SPEAK AS THIS IS A DAY OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF ADELAIDE.

A VISITOR TO THIS CITY WAS SUFFICIENTLY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT HE SAW TO WRITE
TO THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD ABOUT IT:

"IN ADELAIDE ONE HAS NO FEELING OF BEING CRAMPED. THERE IS ELBOW
ROOM FOR INSTITUTIONS, TREES, GRASS, EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY THAT
IS GOOD. WHEN MAKING A SPECIAL STUDY OF ITS GARDENS, PARKS AND
STREET PLANTING THAT FEELING OF ABUNDANCE OF SPACE IMPRESSED ITSELF
UPON MY MIND MORE STRONGLY THAN EVER.

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ADELAIDE IS A BEAUTIFUL CITY AND, AS I ENTERED IT, A GENTLEMAN
IN THE TRAIN SAID TO ME WITH A WAVE OF HIS HAND: 'MY DEAR SIR, THE
FINEST CITY ON EARTH, AND I HAVE TRAVELLED A GOOD DEAL'".

THAT WAS IN 1907.

THE TASK AND THE CHALLENGE FACING THE CITY COUNCIL, URBAN SYSTEMS
CORPORATION AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS TO ENSURE THAT TRAVELLERS SAY THE
SAME THING ON ARRIVAL IN 1977 AND 2007.

IT CAN AND MUST BE DONE.

LIGHT'S CITY, LIKE CROMWELL'S RUINS, HAS BEEN KNOCKED ABOUT A BIT.

BUT THIS IS STILL THE BEST OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS. THERE IS STILL
HERE A FEELING OF SPACIOUSNESS AND ELEGANCE.

THE ESSENCE OF THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IS TO RETAIN IT AND, SIMULTANEOUSLY,
TO MEET THE NEW AND UNIQUE DEMANDS IMPOSED UPON BY ITS CITIZENS' NEEDS AND
THE NEW TECHNOLOGY.

TO ACHIEVE IT, THERE MUST BE THE CLOSEST COOPERATION BETWEEN STATE AND CITY GOVERNMENT, THE SUBMISSION OF PLANNING ALTERNATIVES BY EXPERT CONSULTANTS SUCH AS URBAN SYSTEMS AND THE MAXIMUM PUBLIC INTEREST AND DISCUSSION.

WELCOMING MR CLARK LAST JANUARY I MENTIONED THE NEED FOR THIS SAYING IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT THERE BE A VERY HIGH LEVEL OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION IN THE PLANNING PROCESS.

THE OPENING OF THIS CENTRE WILL BE A POWERFUL STIMULUS FOR THAT.

IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT IT SHOULD MERELY DISPLAY PLANNING ALTERNATIVES FOR THE INFORMATION OR MURMURED APPROVAL OF THE CITIZENRY.

THIS CENTRE SHOULD PROVOKE COMMENT, EXCITEMENT AND, IN SOME CASES, OUTRAGE.

WE WANT PEOPLE TO GET INTERESTED IN WHAT THEIR CITY IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE.

WE WANT IT TALKED ABOUT AND ARGUED ABOUT. CONTROVERSY IS INSEPARABLE FROM GOOD URBAN PLANNING AND VERY DESIRABLE.

WITH THAT NOBLE PURPOSE IN MIND, PERHAPS I COULD THROW IN A FEW NOTIONS OF MY OWN:

- ON A RELATIVELY MINOR NOTE. I THINK WE'D HAVE A MORE BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL IF THERE WAS A MUCH EXPANDED STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM.
- IN ADDITION TO THE PROJECTED PERMANENT MALL IN RUNDLE STREET, STREETS SUCH AS HINDLEY STREET COULD BECOME PERIODIC MALLS, CLOSED TO TRAFFIC - SAY AT WEEKENDS - SO PEOPLE COULD STROLL IN THEM AT LEISURE, SIT OUTDOORS, EAT, DRINK AND WATCH THE PASSING SHOW, WINDOW GAZE AND SHOP AT TEMPORARY STALLS.
- IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT WE PRESERVE THOSE MAGNIFICENT HOTELS WHOSE BALCONIES AND VERANDAHS ARE JUST A BEAUTIFUL FEATURE OF ADELAIDE. THEY MUST BE KEPT AND, WHERE NECESSARY, CAREFULLY RESTORED NOT TORN DOWN OR DEFACED WITH GARISH SIGNS.

IN PLANNING FOR FUTURE TRAFFIC NEEDS NORTH-SOUTH OR EAST-WEST WE SHOULD NOT PERMIT THE DESTRUCTION WILLY-NILLY OF THOSE SMALL BACK STREETS THAT GIVE ANY CITY A DISTINCTIVE CHARM. INDEED, THESE LITTLE STREETS OFFER SUPERB OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT.

SIMILARLY, A SYSTEM OF ZONING IS NECESSARY TO PROPER PLANNING. BUT IT'S JUST AS WRONG TO BE RIGID IN INTERPRETATION OF ZONING AS IT IS TO HAVE NO ZONING AT ALL. THERE IS NOTHING AUTOMATICALLY WRONG IN HAVING A MIX OF RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT - THIS IS THE VERY QUALITY THAT GIVES MUCH OF LONDON AND MANY OTHER CITIES THEIR UNIQUE FLAVOUR. WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PROPER OVERVIEW AND BROAD POLICY FRAMEWORK THAT CAN EMBRACE VARIATION. HAPPILY WE HAVE NOW REACHED THE STAGE WHERE PLANNING OPTIONS CAN BE CONSIDERED AGAINST A BACKGROUND

OF SUCCESS.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ADELAIDE NOW IS REALLY QUITE EXTRAORDINARY.

THE WHOLE STYLE OF THE CITY IS CHANGING IN A WAY THAT MAKES IT A MORE RELAXED AND ENJOYABLE PLACE TO LIVE IN.

IT IS IN PART DUE TO SUCH SPECTACULAR ADDITIONS TO THE SKYLINE AS THE FESTIVAL CENTRE AND TO THE NEW APPRECIATION OF OUTDOOR LIVING.

BUT PERHAPS THE MOST DRAMATIC CHANGE IS THE WAY IN WHICH THE LOSS OF RESIDENTS WAS ARRESTED AND THEN REVERSED.

THE VALUE OF NEW RESIDENTIAL APPLICATIONS IN THE CITY OF ADELAIDE FOR THE YEAR TO JUNE 30 LAST REACHED MORE THAN \$1.3 MILLION COMPARED WITH \$73,000 IN THE YEAR BEFORE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONTROL WAS INTRODUCED TOGETHER WITH ANOTHER \$2.1 MILLION FOR RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS COMPARED WITH \$274,125 LAST YEAR.

THE FACE OF ADELAIDE IS CHANGING, RAPIDLY AND RADICALLY.

THE SUCCESS WE'VE ACHIEVED SO FAR IS DUE IN VERY LARGE MEASURE TO THE WORK OF THE ADELAIDE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS ENABLED THE MOST FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE CITY COUNCIL AND WHOSE SUCCESS IS OUTSTANDING.

THE NEXT CRUCIAL STAGE WILL STEM FROM THE ONGOING WORK OF URBAN SYSTEMS AND PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF THE PROPOSALS MADE.

ADELAIDE IS AND WILL REMAIN MUCH MORE THAN THE CENTRE OF A LARGE METROPOLIS: IT IS A GOVERNMENTAL AND COMMERCIAL CAPITAL FOR MORE THAN A MILLION SOUTH AUSTRALIANS: WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO IT BEING THE HOME OF 40,000 PEOPLE. IT IS THE HEART OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND THE EFFECTS OF WHAT IS DONE HERE WILL RADIATE OUT AND AFFECT NO LESS VITAL PLANNING DECISIONS THROUGHOUT THE METROPOLIS AND ELSEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA.

THE PLANNING DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS WILL HAVE AS PROFOUND AN EFFECT ON THE WAY WE LIVE AS DID COLONEL LIGHT'S SURVEY. THIS CENTRE IS A VITAL PART OF THE PROCESS OF ENSURING THAT THEY ARE PUBLIC DECISIONS INVOLVING ALL THE PEOPLE NOT JUST SECTIONAL OR EXCLUSIVELY COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.