

## Talking About The Quay

So yet another conference is proposed about the development of the Circular Quay area! Already there has been so much discussion, and so little action, on the various plans and counter-plans that more talk seems to be superfluous. Yet the City Council apparently believes that a gathering of more than one hundred businessmen will help it to make up its mind. They will be asked to pronounce judgment on a plan drawn up by Professor Winston and Mr McLachlan, the City Council's Planning Authority, a plan which is, itself, a compromise between two previous plans.

The new plan provides for the development of the area bounded by Bridge, George and Phillip Streets and the Cahill Expressway. The reason for calling the conference is that the city aldermen are themselves unable to agree on any plan. This condition has been chronic ever since the first plan was submitted to them more than 18 months ago. It could have been cured long since by the Minister for Local Government, Mr Hills, who, in 1962, suspended the Quay area

from the Greater Cumberland Planning Scheme and himself assumed complete authority over it. But he has asked the City Council to submit a recommendation to him, although, in the unlikely event that it ever does so, he need not accept it. Perhaps Mr Hills is waiting to hand over the job to the new State Planning Authority. Whether this is so or not, nobody can deny that he has been a very patient man.

The shape of the two ends of the actual Quay has already been determined. On the east is the A.M.P. building, and on the west will rise, in due course, a 27-floor office building for which permission has already been given. These two skyscrapers, for good or ill, will balance each other. The backdrop has been determined by the mass of other tall buildings which have been, or are being, erected in this dynamic end of the town. All that is needed is agreement on the pattern for the area in the middle as it were. Are one hundred businessmen in conference assembled likely to supply this, no matter how capable they may be as individuals?