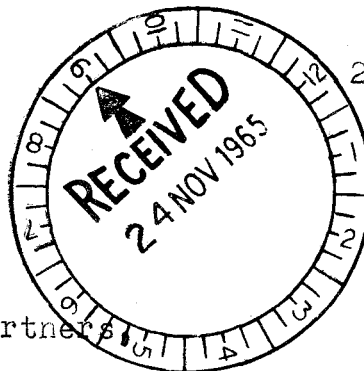


THE AUSTRALIAN PLANNING INSTITUTE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

GW:MBD



210 Melbourne Street,
North Adelaide, S.A.

20th November 1965.

Mr. W. George Clarke,
Clarke, Gazzard and Partners,
117 Harrington Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

Dear Mr. Clarke,

An Australian Institute of Urban Studies.

I write as chairman of a Joint Committee recently set up by the Social Science Research Council of Australia and the Australian Planning Institute to consider the possible form of and the means of establishing a proposed Australian Institute of Urban Studies. I write to invite you to participate in the work of this Committee.

The moves to establish an Australian Institute of Urban Studies go back some two years to when a national seminar on metropolitan area problems and studies sponsored by the Social Science Research Council set up a sub-committee to examine the need for a body to promote and assist research and training in the field of urban affairs in Australia. There was a strong feeling among those present at the seminar that Australian cities were posing greater and greater problems to those active in urban administration, and urban planning and development, and that these problems weren't being adequately covered by the present research and training arrangements in Australia. (The broad range of urban interests represented at the seminar is indicated in the attached papers.)



The Australian Planning Institute has also been working towards such an institute since its last national Congress, held in Adelaide in August 1964, unanimously resolved to seek the formation of a "central body to deal with urban affairs".

Cont'd.

Problems of urban growth and administration are not peculiar to Australia of course. However, there has been a recognition in other countries that these problems cannot be allowed to drift and moves have been made to generate a substantially greater urban research and training effort. In Canada, the Canadian Council on Urban and Regional Research has been established. In Britain and the United States a large number of urban research centres and foundations have been set up in particular universities and cities, and in the U. S. President Johnson is in the process of forming an Institute of Urban Development in Washington to consider these problems on a national basis.

These moves overseas clearly suggest that Australia should be considering its own urban research and training requirements and the sub-committee set up in early 1964 strongly recommended that an Australian Institute of Urban Studies be founded - possibly along the lines of the Canadian Council on Urban and Regional Research.

The recommendations of this sub-committee led to the formation of the present joint S.S.R.C. - A.P.I. Committee which has the task of preparing a specific and detailed proposal for an Australian Institute and taking the necessary steps to establish the Institute. One of the first decisions of the Committee was that it should be enlarged to encompass a broader group of bodies (government and private, professional and academic) interested and active in urban affairs. Bodies such as the Royal Australian Institute of Architects have already nominated representatives, the Commonwealth Department of Housing has agreed to send an observer, and bodies such as the N.S.W. State Planning Authority, the Institute of Applied Economics and the Lend Lease Corporation Ltd. are being invited to send a representative to the next meeting of the Committee which will be held in Melbourne on Monday 13th December 1965. As well as the eight members of the joint S.S.R.C. - A.P.I. Committee it is expected that representatives from about ten other interested bodies will be present.

  Accordingly, I have pleasure in inviting you to be present at this meeting which will be held at 11.00 a.m. in the Department of Psychology rooms on the 11th floor of the Redmond-Barrie Building in the University of Melbourne on Monday 13th December 1965.

Cont'd.

Mr. W. George Clarke.

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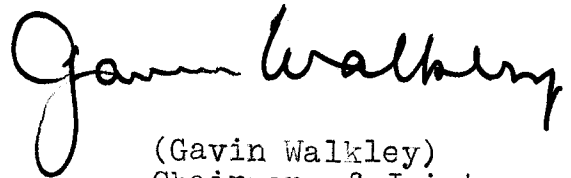
20th November 1965.

This meeting will be a working session and the general intention of our group is to carry out some of the necessary and substantial preparatory work prior to setting up an Interim Council which will take over the responsibility of launching the Institute.

In conclusion, I would mention that I met with officers of the Ford Foundation when I was in New York last July and outlined these moves in Australia to them. They expressed interest and mentioned, without commitment, the possibility of the Foundation sponsoring an Australian visit by a member or officer of the Canadian Council on Urban and Regional Research.

I am also enclosing for your information a copy of two recently prepared papers which give an indication of the work which has been going on up to the present.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Walkley', with a stylized, cursive script.

(Gavin Walkley)
Chairman of Joint
Organising Committee.

Encls.