

# Strategic plan for Sydney defended

The City of Sydney Strategic Plan was defended yesterday by the project director, Mr George Clarke.

A Sydney architect, Mr Harry Seidler, had described the plan as "something of a toothless tiger."

In a letter to Sydney newspapers, Mr Seidler said the plan should have offered large incentives for developers to provide open space for pedestrians and plazas.

Mr Clarke said yesterday that he did not want to "plaza the city to death."

"We don't think it's nec-

essary to encourage people to build plazas," he said.

"Developers build them anyway."

"If Sydney were composed entirely of Australia Squares it would be a desolate place."

He cited the Australian Gaslight development, the T and G development and the new Stock Exchange Tower opposite Australia Square as recently-approved developments which had incorporated large



Mr Clarke

areas of open space in their designs.

He said Mr Seidler had "a particular enthusiasm" for plaza-studded developments.

"He is like a painter in a particular style who wants the regulations to force everyone else to paint in his style," Mr Clarke said.

Mr Clarke said the project demanded three-dimensional action plans to cover Sydney. Some of these were being prepared.

The William Street and Wynyard pedestrian plans were examples. These would be released on August 20.

"Mr Seidler has not bothered to study the plan — that's obvious," Mr Clarke said.

"But we are seriously considering his representations."