

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN PLANNING INSTITUTE - NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

C I T A T I O N

AWARD OF THE TENTH SIDNEY LUKER MEMORIAL MEDAL, 1974, TO MR. GEORGE CLARKE

Mr. Clarke has practised urban and regional planning for 20 years. His professional activity began in 1954 with the Cumberland County Council, Sydney's then regional planning authority. After further work and study in the United Kingdom and the United States, in 1960 he commenced an independent professional practice in Sydney of a comprehensive character not previously attempted in Australia. The objective was to integrate the disciplines of urban, social, economic and geographic research, planning, design and law.

Over the last decade and a half, Mr. Clarke's practice has developed into a group of interlinked organisations, with a large staff and branch offices in all the mainland States. Mr. Clarke's role in the practice has evolved away from detailed work to one of involvement in only major projects, overall management and administrative responsibility. His work has extended into all Australian States and beyond to New Guinea, Mauritius and Iran. Among his recent notable projects have been the 1973-74 City of Adelaide Planning Study, the 1973-74 review and revision of the 1971 City of Sydney Strategic Plan and the Martin Place Plaza.

Mr. Clarke has been committee member, secretary, vice-president and president of the New South Wales Division of the Royal Australian Planning Institute and is at present the Institute's Federal vice-president. His greatest contribution has perhaps been to bring the Institute's Journal up to its present high level when he was its Honorary Editor from 1962 to 1968. He has also served on countless special purpose committees, and organised seminars, congresses and summer schools for the Institute.

Mr. Clarke has held many other honorary and advisory positions. He has lectured in town planning and related subjects in universities here and abroad and is the author of a large number of articles, research papers, reports and other publications.

Without a doubt, Mr. Clarke is one of Australia's most notable urban planners. He has distinguished himself in every possible sphere of professional life and has condensed an enormous amount of activity into a relatively short time. His work has been consistently innovative: he has pioneered, in Australia at least, the introduction of a succession of new ideas, techniques and/or approaches. He was among the first planning practitioners to bring public participation into the planning process. Mr. Clarke is a "generalist" rather than a "specialist". He is particularly interested in the practice of planning as a process of resolving social, legal and political conflicts. His early interests in human attitudes and reactions to the physical environment have moved him to interests in architecture, urban design planning and perception psychology. The difficulties of implementing conscious urban plans and designs have led him to study the underlying socio-cultural, economic, administrative and political processes of decision-making which affect urban and regional development. For his many achievements, the New South Wales Division of the Royal Australian Planning Institute has awarded the 1974 Sidney Luker Memorial Medal to Mr. George Clarke.

John Roseth
President
New South Wales Division

29 January, 1975