

Att. G.C.

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26 Tree fear in the suburbs, says planner

By PETER TERRY

NEXT time your neighbor plants a shrub where he should be growing a tree, blame it on a hang-over from the pioneering days, says urban planning consultant, Mr. George Clarke.

He says Australian's tree phobia is just as much a cause of bleak, barren suburbs, as the fault of planners.

Mr. Clarke, who produced the future master plans for Sydney and Adelaide, has just won the Royal Australian Planning Institute's top planning award, the Sidney Luker Memorial Medal.

"Australians seem to fear vegetation or big trees, although they produce a tremendous visual affect, and are very important microclimatically," he said in Sydney yesterday.

Noise is another problem he thinks needs tackling urgently. "Traffic noise is probably the worst problem of all," he said.

"But it is a problem which can be solved by channelling traffic flows on to major arterial roads and closing off more suburban streets.

"You can also use landscape planning to counter the problem too.

"This will be one of the features you will see in ~~many~~ ~~new~~ ~~centres~~," he said.