

21.2.75



Mr President, the Luker Family, Ladies and Gentlemen :-

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Thank you. I deeply appreciate the award of the Luker Medal because it is judged by one's professional colleagues and hence one's sternest critics.

I have always felt a strong sense of the historical evolution of the professions concerned with urban and regional planning. I'm particularly interested in the slow and painful historical process by which our society has grown more and more self-conscious of what it is doing, and should be doing, to shape its environment.

I'm interested in the evolution of the ideas and skills of professional planners and the disciplines of urban studies.

I see myself simply as one who inherited the ideas and experience of those who came before me, and who will hand on the lessons of my experience to those who follow. I see us all engaged in a great learning experience - learning how to manage our environment.

My greatest current hope is that we can evolve new, cooperative, ways of working between Federal and State, State and Local Governments, between Local Governments and their citizens, and between government and private sectors.

It's not enough that our professional knowledge and skills should increase, or that the mere numbers of people employed in the field, and reports produced, should increase. Our social and political skills in environmental management must grow much faster than they have been growing.

We professionals must contribute to that growth. I do hope that the professional planners will turn out in force to attend the Institute's conference on "Towards a New Planning System for NSW" at the Sydney University Women's College on Saturday, March 8.

Thank you.