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There has been a good deal of public comment about the decision of the Housing Trust not to proceed with the erection of a multi-storey block of flats on East Terrace in the City of Adelaide and concern has been expressed by some architects that this may mean the Government is not intending to pursue a policy of inner-suburban and urban re-development to ^{obtain a} higher density of population in the inner metropolitan area.

The decision of the Housing Trust taken with the consent and approval of the Government doesn't mean anything of the kind. The proposal for an expensive multi-storey block of flats in Adelaide was a proposal quite absurd and quite useless in terms of any effective urban re-development. It was an isolated proposal and unrelated to any overall plan for development of decaying inner areas.

What is vitally needed at the moment is an overall plan for the inner suburban areas which will provide the housing of varying kinds, flats, terraced houses, court-yard houses and the like integrated in such a way as to provide a balanced community development related to the community facilities which will be provided at the same time or which already exist. These houses and flats must be designed to provide for middle and lower income groups. It is impossible to proceed without allowing for the participation of private enterprise in such ventures and to use public monies for providing housing in the plan for the lower income groups.

As Minister in charge of Town Planning I can say quite categorically that it is the intention of the Government to proceed along these lines. It is true that at the moment we are hampered not only by lack of a plan for the inner areas but by the lack of any effective Town Planning legislation in the State. We are worse off in this regard than any other State of Australia. However, when Parliament meets there will be an opportunity for this position to be corrected. The

decision not to build one multi-storey block of flats was really a decision to get rid of a useless piece of window-dressing from the previous Government which was doing nothing effective in the Town Planning area and was to provide housing only for higher income groups who can be adequately catered for otherwise.

Goodnight.