

STONE

the Wodonga
NEWS

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LASHES OUT!



A part-time Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation member has joined in the fight against recent criticism levelled at the corporation.

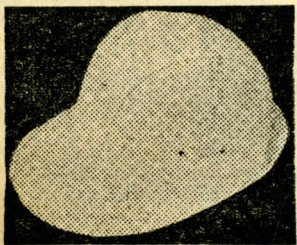
Mr Les Stone, also a Wodonga City councillor, yesterday released a specially prepared statement.

He has joined with the NSW Minister for Decentralisation and Development, Mr Bruxner, and a deputy chairman of the corporation, Mr Les Muir, supporting the actions of the corporation.

"I'm concerned at the growing tendency of some individuals and organisations," he said.

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STONE HITS ALL THE CRITICS!

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"They presume to represent the official policy of local government at other government levels.

"These people are in no way connected with local government," he said.

"These critics could not possibly know to what extent local government is being consulted by the corporation as it works towards development plans for Albury-Wodonga.

"They continue to claim local government is being stripped of its powers.

"The suggestion that advisory committees should

be given the power to veto unsatisfactory Ministerial Council decisions is indicative of the irresponsible statements and suggestions being made.

"These suggestions are not only being made in Albury-Wodonga, but in Ballarat, which happens to be the home town of the Victorian Minister for Decentralisation and Development, Mr Byrne.

"One must surely ask

why the big effort to save Ballarat from the so-called ill-effects of becoming a growth centre with planned development?

"Why haven't these prophets of doom shown the same zealous interest in other areas such as Geelong, Bendigo, La Trobe Valley and Bathurst-Orange?

"Have these critics become subjective and destructive because they have

allowed their personal feelings towards certain individuals to cloud their judgments?

"They should be trying to make a constructive contribution," Mr Stone said.

"Are they interested in contributing to the success of decentralisation in Australia?"

"Or are they hell-bent on destroying some people who are working hard to establish this first national growth centre project?"