

# Wodonga man's message for Ballarat on growth centres:

## <sup>28/9/74</sup> 'No need for fears of a takeover'

The development of joint Commonwealth-State growth centres in Victoria had not led to any socialistic takeover of land and powers by Canberra, it was claimed yesterday.

A former Mayor of Wodonga, Cr Les Stone, told The Courier from Canberra he wanted to dispel some fears which were evident in Ballarat.

Cr Stone represented the community in the development of Australia's first national growth centre at Albury-Wodonga.

He was adamant that people and municipalities had considerable say in the way their area was developed.

Cr Stone was Mayor of Wodonga during the two years leading up to the decision to create the growth centre at Albury-Wodonga and during the first months of decision making and planning.

He is now a council representative on the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation.

He attended an Albury-Wodonga Ministerial Council meeting in Canberra yesterday with the Urban and Regional Development Minister, Mr Uren, the State Decentralisation and Development Minister, Mr Murray Byrne, and the New South Wales Development Minister, Mr J. Bruxner.

### PROTECTED

Cr Stone said the rights of local people and the community were protected in every possible way with municipalities being represented on the consultative council.

"Local people also are represented as members of advisory bodies set up by the consultative council and are involved in many other ways from the beginning of planning and development.

"Certainly the planners and other expert officers of State and Commonwealth Governments are preparing plans, conducting surveys and submitting alternative ways of developing the growth centre area.

"But all of these plans and proposals are put on public display for a considerable period.

"The views of the community are sought and carefully considered before any decisions are made," Cr Stone said.

Even after decisions were made residents and organisa-

tions had "every possible avenue" of appeal.

Cr Stone said there had not been one case where land had been compulsorily acquired in Albury-Wodonga.

### COMPENSATION

Land was required to provide for certain types of development, to protect the environment and to preserve landmarks and the local way of life.

"The terms of compensation, especially in relation to Victoria, have been met satisfactorily," Cr Stone said.

"In every case the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation has purchased property by negotiation and all purchases to date have been to the complete satisfaction of all parties.

"Anyone who claims there has been a socialistic takeover of land or powers is just not aware of the facts," Cr Stone said.