

## GUARD OF HONOR

BELOW: An honor guard is formed on both sides as Cr Stone's coffin is carried into the Wodonga lawn cemetery. Mr Shane Stone (right), and Mr Andrew Rutkowski, are the first pallbearers.



RIGHT: Mr Shane Stone returns to his mother's side near the end of the burial service. Mrs Pamela Stone remained composed throughout.

# Snowy man leads 'new city' team

Snowy Mountains Scheme leader Sir Leslie Thiess, 65, will lead a statutory body to supervise the reconstruction of Darwin.

Announcing this yesterday, the Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, said Darwin would be rebuilt where it stood.

After a special Cabinet meeting in Sydney yesterday, Mr Whitlam told a national news conference that final details would be left to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission.

He said the commission would be made up of members of the Departments of Housing and Construction, Northern Territory, Urban and Regional Development as well as nominees of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and the Darwin City Council.

"To deal with the reconstruction of the city it has been essential to create some new structure," Mr Whitlam said.

Mr Whitlam said that he was unable to say what the Australian Government's financial contribution to the reconstruction of Darwin would be.

### Pay for evacuation

However, he said that the Government accepted the financial responsibility for the evacuation of the city and would also pay for people to return.

Mr Whitlam said the Minister for Social Security, Mr Hayden, would have the responsibility for looking after the people of Darwin, most of whom had now been evacuated.

The responsibility for the reconstruction of the city would rest with the Minister for Northern Development and the Northern Territory, Dr Patterson.

Mr Whitlam said the reconstruction commission would be established by statute as soon as the Parliament re-assembled on February 11, and the Government hoped for the co-operation of both sides of both the House of Representatives and the Senate to ensure that the legislation was passed promptly.

Dr Patterson yesterday afternoon contacted the Darwin authorities to ask them to appoint their nominees.

● Albury's cyclone fund tops \$31,000 — Page 8; more Border gifts — Page 8.



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# Thousands pay tribute to Cr Stone

More than 1000 mourners attended a celebrated Requiem Mass for the late Cr Les Stone in the Sacred Heart Church, Wodonga, yesterday.

Representatives from the Australian and state governments together with all Wodonga City councillors and executive staff attended the service.

They were joined by representatives of eight councils, the Australian Army, the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation, citizens and Cr Stone's close friends.

The clergy from many churches in Albury and Wodonga were also present.

Thousands of other citizens, visitors and schoolchildren lined the streets as the cortege moved to the Wodonga lawn cemetery.

The Rev Fr Burton-clay of St Augustine's was the chief celebrant of the Requiem Mass which was attended also by 11 priests, including the Rt Rev Monsignor

Bowman. After the funeral rites the coffin was borne from the church to the hearse by six pallbearers.

They were the Wodonga town clerk, Mr Andrew Rutkowski, Col R. McLean, Mr Shane Stone, Mr Cyril Collins, Mr Alex Harrison and Mr R. Curtain.

Government representatives at the funeral included both Members for the North Eastern Provinces, Mr Bradbury and Mr Swinburne and the Member for Albury, Mr Mackie.

Mr Bradbury, representing the Victorian Premier, Mr Hamer, and the Minister for Decentralisation and Development, Mr Byrne, paid tribute to Cr Stone as a man of great vision and dedication.

Mr Byrne was also represented by the permanent head of the Department of State Development, Mr W. Merritt and Mr Mel Read.

The NSW Minister for Decentralisation and Development, Mr Bruxner, who is ill in hospital, was represented by Mr Barry Eisenhauer, who said later that the Victorian Government would be hard pressed to find a replacement for Cr Stone on the Development Corporation.

The Victorian Minister for Local Government, Mr Hunt, also attended the funeral.

He said that few people fully appreciated or knew about Cr Stone's initial efforts for Albury-Wodonga development.

Development Corporation members attending included the chairman, Mr Gordon Craig, and public relations officer, Mr Noel Beaton.

Local government members attending came from the City of Wangaratta, and shires of Chiltern, Oxley, Rutherglen, Tallangatta, Upper Murray and Yackandandah.

The mayor of Wodonga, Cr K. Riley, said yesterday that the late Cr Les Stone was worthy of every citizen's tribute.

## DARWIN, A CLOSED CITY

● Continued from Page 1

The chief medical officer in Darwin, Dr Jurgen Rode, said yesterday most of the cyclone victims died of asphyxiation.

He was speaking at police headquarters where he had been based during the massive job of identifying the 48 bodies brought in after Cyclone Tracy.

With a team of eight,

Dr Rode has worked for 80 hour stretches trying to identify the victims. So far he has failed to identify only 11.

Dr Rode said most victims smothered under the rubble of their homes.

Darwin residents are forming vigilante committees to protect their properties from looters.

Armed with rifles and

shotguns, residents are working shifts guarding schools, factories and homes.

The residents are extremely well armed, and most wear bandoliers full of ammunition across their shoulders.

Police fear the vigilante committees could take the law into their own hands.