

MEET TOM UREN

MINISTER FOR
URBAN AND REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



*THE HONOURABLE TOM UREN, MINISTER FOR
URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT*

The N.C.D.C. is responsible to Parliament through the Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Mr Tom Uren.

Mr Uren was elected to the House of Representatives for Reid, N.S.W. 1958 and has held the seat ever since.

He was born on the 28th May, 1921, at Balmain, an inner Sydney suburb, and was educated at Harbord Public School and Manly High School in Sydney.

Until his Cabinet election by the Federal Labor Government the Minister was Member of the Parliamentary Labor Party Executive from 1969, Labor spokesman on Urban Affairs and Environment, and

Member of Parliamentary Labor Party's Economic Committee.

An enthusiastic sportsman, Mr Uren was among the first to support bicycle paths in the A.C.T. He is an ardent swimmer and was Junior Surf Champion for Freshwater, Sydney, from 1936-1939. He was also representative, President's Cup, Rugby League (Manly-Warringah) 1936-1939, and boxed professionally in 1940-41 and from 1946 to 48.

Shortly after the outbreak of World War II in 1939 he enlisted in Royal Australian Artillery Permanent Army and transferred to 2nd A.I.F. in June 1941. He served as Bombardier with the Second 1st Heavy Artillery in Timor before his capture by the Japanese in 1941. He spent the next three years as a prisoner-of-war in Timor, Java, the Burma-Siam Railway and in Japan where he witnessed the atom bomb blast in Nagasaki in 1945.

His overseas visits include:

- 1960 — Japan and People's Republic of China.
- 1965 — Deputy Leader Australian Delegation to the 54th Annual Conference of the International Parliamentary Union, Ottawa.
- 1967 — Australian Representative to the War Graves Commission, Ambon.
- 1968 — Member of the Australian Parliamentary Mission to Europe.
- 1971 — Representative of the Australian Parliament to the Environment Conference, Bonn, Western Germany.
- 1972 — Visited the U.S.A. as a guest of the U.S. Government to study problems of the environment and cities.

Before entering Parliament Mr Uren was a Rubber mill man, with the Goodyear Rubber Co. at Granville, Sydney and a Trainee Executive and Manager with Woolworths Ltd. at Lithgow, N.S.W. and several other of their stores in Sydney. He operated his own retail business 1955-1957. Mr Uren is married, with two children.



*Mr Uren leads children cycling on Canberra's
Dickson-Civic cycle path.*

(Riding in the background is former NCDC Commissioner Mr W.C. "Bill" Andrews. The photograph was taken at the official opening last December of Canberra's first cycle path.)