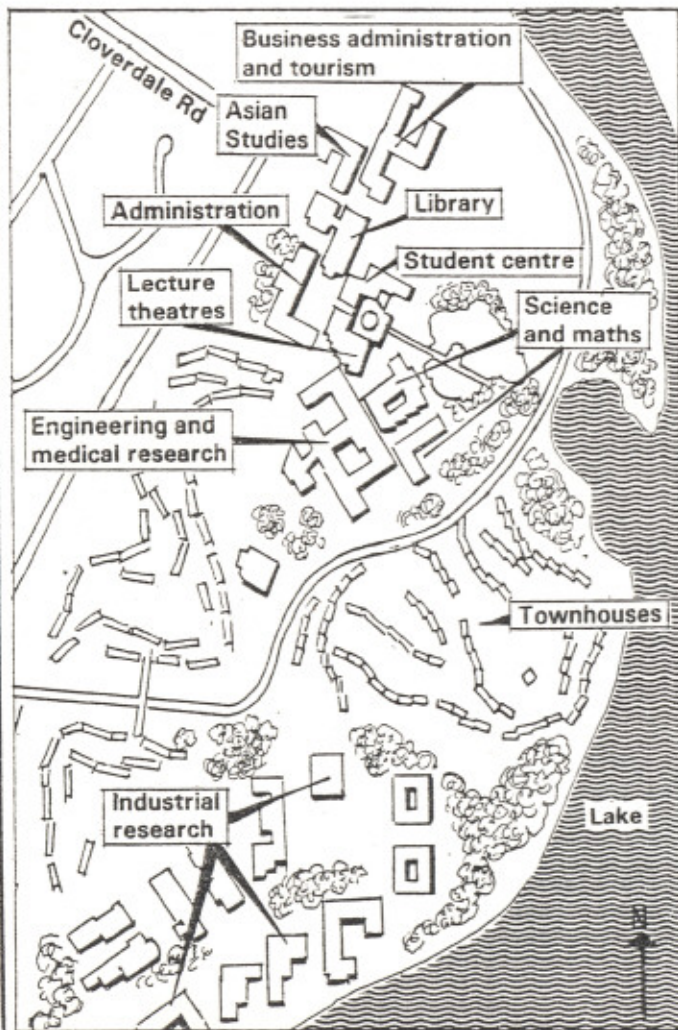


Private uni will go ahead despite objections



A PLAN of the proposed Bond University of Applied Technology to be built on the Gold Coast.

THE Bond university would go ahead despite objections by the Federal Government and academic groups, the Bond Corporation's Gold Coast representative, Mr Brian Orr, said yesterday.

He rejected claims the university would be elitist, controlled by businessmen and forfeit academic standards and independence.

"It will not be run under the thumb of Alan Bond or the Bond Corporation," Mr Orr said.

"We are looking at building a university that will have standards and degrees recognised world-wide. Bond Corporation is not proposing to put up a university where people can buy a degree."

The university was a long-term investment that would recoup its cost by marketing its research. A project already planned for its science-engineering research was designing artificial limbs to be built and exported by Australian firms.

"Australians are known as a race of inventors," Mr Orr said.

"But those inventors all too often have to go overseas to develop their ideas and we end up buying the product back from our competitors."

The Bond University of Applied Technology would

By education reporter
ANDREW GERAGHTY

reverse that trend and develop its own research in an adjacent technology park. It also would train students in business communication and administration so they could market an idea from concept to export.

Mr Orr said most businessmen felt new graduates were out of touch with business and the economics of their chosen profession. The university would produce all-round businessmen, not "tunnel-vision" professionals.

Strong departments in Asian languages would give students skills to trade with our near neighbors, something universities now lacked.

An advisory council would soon be appointed to set university admission and degree standards as well as select professional staff. While the council would have some business representatives, most members would be academics.

Mr Orr said this academic control of top administration would ensure the university's independence. Several prominent academics had been approached and had agreed to join.

Mr Orr said publicly and privately-funded secondary institutions co-existed and the same could apply to tertiary institutions.

High research standards would attract the best academics to work and teach at the university.

He said he expected to be flooded with student entries. The exact fee had yet to be determined, but the campus layout was already planned.

The administration, library and student centres would be flanked by business administration and tourism and engineering and medical research departments. There would be individual townhouses or larger student dormitories.

In Canberra, the Science Minister, Mr Jones, welcomed debate about the university but dismissed the plan as superficially attractive and not properly thought out.

The superficial attraction relied on its copying elements of the United States model where some of the best universities, including Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Chicago, were private.

The Australian Teachers' Federation said yesterday the university threatened the concept of accessible, high quality tertiary education.