

World will see a virtual Sydney

A VIRTUAL city is to be built online, a reflection of the rich and chaotic history of Sydney.

The Dictionary of Sydney — online, multimedia and searchable — has won almost \$1 million in funding.

Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore has welcomed the commonwealth research grant, saying it would help crystallise the city's first on-line dictionary.

"This is a long-term project which will bring together hundreds of historians, academics and cultural institutions to create an invaluable resource for tourists, the community and educational institutions," she said. The University of Sydney, the City of Sydney and the State Library of NSW were among the partners that helped to secure for the project a five-year \$916,000 Linkage grant from the Australian Research Council.

Anyone can suggest entries for the dictionary, although they will have to convince a management board chaired by the city historian Shirley Fitzgerald. Her board has already been at work for a year.

The dictionary will include primary sources, biblio-

graphic material, new research and multimedia resources such as images, maps, databases and movies.

"From art and architecture to people and politics, to waterways and wildlife, the dictionary will include entries on wide-ranging topics from prehistory to the present, covering the greater Sydney metropolitan area," the city council says in a statement.

According to the project's ARC summary, "Sydney is a global metropolis with a complex identity and continuously changing form . . . the dictionary will form an invaluable resource informing urban, heritage and planning policy; providing resources for education and cultural tourism; advancing the application of digital technology in the humanities; and internationally showcasing Australian scholarship."

Serving on the University of Sydney's dictionary team are arts dean Stephen Garton; Ross Coleman, innovation and development manager of the university library; and Ian Johnson from the Archaeological Computing Laboratory.