



News

East Coast resort's \$100m price tag

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A PLAN for an East Coast resort worth up to \$100 million is being labelled as the one of the biggest tourism developments Tasmania has ever seen.

The Cambria Green project, which will be considered by the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council today, would be a major redevelopment of the 3185ha Cambria Estate at Dolphin Sands, near Swansea.

The proposal has been put forward by Melbourne group Cambria Green Agriculture and Tourism Management, which represents an international investor syndicate from China, Hong Kong, Australia and other countries.

The development would include a 100-120 room luxury Cambria Sky Hotel, 70 villas and 240 units set below the hotel as tourist accommodation, an 80-unit health retreat, wedding, function and conference facilities, 18 and nine-hole golf courses as well as 80 visitor apartments.

The proposal also includes a village consisting of restaurants, shops, cafes, a pharmacy, medical and dental services, art gallery, gym, children's play area and organic farming spaces.

It will also include re-use of the 182-year-old heritage-listed Cambria homestead, with an existing airstrip to be improved to service fly-in guests, provide scenic flights and accommodate the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The site has 12 titles either side of the Tasman Highway as well as shack properties north of Nine Mile Beach. It was purchased by the investors in March 2015.

One of the investors is Cambria Green chief executive Ronald Hu, who said the development would cost \$50-\$100 million and all the funding would flow from developers without government help.

Glamorgan Spring Bay councillors will today consider a request for a planning scheme amendment made by Irene Inc Planning and Urban Design on behalf of the investors.

Mr Hu said the council would consider the request before it went out for public consultation, but the Tasmanian Planning Commission would be the final approval body. A separate development application will be lodged once the amendment is approved.

"For the past 10 years we've seen the East Coast of Tasmania show very good potential [but] we have found the facilities over there are at a very basic level," Mr Hu said.

"This will attract a certain type of high-end tourist as there isn't really the target market opportunity there." Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania chief Luke Martin said the scale of the development was staggering. By comparison, the Country Club Tasmania resort is 120ha and the Tamar Valley Resort is 60ha.

"It's potentially the biggest in Tasmania," he said.

"By any measure it would be the largest tourism development on the East Coast and the largest in regional Tasmania ... based on size and investment." Mr Martin added he would look forward to seeing development plans come to life. "We need to see these developments come to life," he said. "This is an area that has got a

lot of visitor growth. They are crying out for investment on the East Coast." Mr Hu added the development would support a variety of sectors, including tourism, hospitality, sport, art, transport and agriculture.

"We have done all our homework." Glamorgan Spring Bay Mayor Michael Kent said it was the largest development his municipality had ever seen.

"This could be a project of state significance," Cr Kent said. Today's council meeting will be held at 5pm at Triabunna.

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