

# Cairns Post

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HD **China's** richest in Cairns  
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**CHINA'S** richest man Wang Jianlin has visited Cairns as part of an investment tour of Australia.

Mr Wang, who is said to be worth \$14.2 billion, dined with about eight of his associates at the Golden Boat Restaurant in Lake St.

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Restaurant manager Veronica Lau confirmed he had dinner at the venue but would not elaborate any further.

She said she did not know what else Mr Wang or his party did while in the Far North.

His visit was kept under wraps but his **company**, the \$67b Dalian Wanda **Group**, is finalising plans to launch into the Australian market with a grand leisure and **hotel** resort on the Gold Coast.

Roland Evans of the Gold Coast-based Canford **Property Group** said Mr Wang was interested in all parts of the east coast of Australia, had considered and ruled out prospects in Townsville.

He said he did not know if Mr Wang visited Cairns but if he or some of his associates had it would have been for recreational purposes.

Mr Evans said he did not believe the proposed \$8.15b Aquis resort and casino project had any bearing of the visit to Cairns.

He said Mr Wang and the **group** were mainly focused on the Gold Coast and Sydney. The Dalian Wang **group** is understood to be in the final stages of negotiations to **buy** into a Surfers Paradise development **site** spanning 1.13ha, including 110m of absolute beachfront.

The **site** is owned by the Australian arm of **China's** Ridong **Group**, proponents of the stalled Jewel development. It is understood Ridong sought an international partner to develop its \$1 billion triple-tower project, which had hard-won development approvals, and Wanda continues to negotiate as a potential majority joint venture partner.

Wanda has ambitions to become the world's largest **hotel** chain and Surfers Paradise would be its Australian launch **site**. Ridong had previously been in discussions with international luxury **hotel** management **company** Aman Resorts.

It is believed plans for the **site** are similar to its \$1.27b One Nine Elms development in Vauxhall, London, which features a five-star **hotel**, 490 apartments and shops across two high-rises. Mr Wang spent at least two days in Australia last month and met tourism and aviation representatives, Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate, Queensland Premier Campbell Newman and Tourism Minister Jann Stuckey before meeting Trade Minister Andrew Robb in Canberra.

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