

SE News
HD **Gasworks hot property**
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A KEY heritage **site** at the gateway to Hobart's CBD is being **sold** for only the third time in 150 years – and could fetch up to \$10 **million**.

The Gasworks **site**, which houses a restaurant, a **wine** centre and a bottle shop, is flanked by Macquarie, Davey and Evans streets and is expected to change hands for up to \$10 **million**.

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Knight Frank managing director Scott Newton said he expected strong local, interstate and overseas interest in the Gasworks.

It last **sold** for \$300,000 to developer Robert Hosken, who has owned the **site** for the past 21 years.

"It will be the first time it's been offered since it was developed by Robert Hosken," Mr Newton said.

"It is a strata title **property**, comprising multiple titles.

"The major part of the **site** is leased to two separate tenants being the 9-11 and the Hog's Breath Cafe.

"It's a gateway to the city and has a massive exposure and traffic volume past it daily.

"We expect it will be pretty keenly sought after given its location." As themercury.com revealed online yesterday, the **site** will go on **sale** by expression of interest next week.

Mr Hosken thought the **property** would fetch between \$9 **million** and \$10 **million**. He said he was liquidating his assets after a long and demanding career. "I'm 70 this year and I've decided there must be more to life than working 24 hours a day and I'm going to retire," he said.

"It's time for me to take life easy. I'm selling everything. "I normally get up at half past five and I'm normally in the office by seven and I'm in there until seven at night. I just can't do it any more.

"If I don't put my things in order, I'd leave a mess for everyone, and I don't do things like that, I'm a tidy person.

"I love working and always have, it's my only hobby. I don't have any other hobbies." He expected the **site** would attract keen interest.

"It's the key to Sullivan's Cove and the Macquarie Point development," he said. "There's some Singaporean people interested in it, there's some **Chinese** people interested in it." Mr Hosken said the land was originally granted to a ticket of leave convict who built boats at the **site**.

The Hobart Gas **Company** was established by an act of State Parliament in 1854 and started pumping gas from the **site** in 1857.

The premises were first extended in 1894 and again 30 years later. The town gas supply ended in 1978 and many of the original buildings were removed in 1987 to allow the extension of Davey St, leaving the original engine house, a stables and office buildings.

DRONE'S-EYE VIEW FUELS MARKETING CAMPAIGN Stunning aerial footage of Hobart's Gasworks will form a part of the six-week marketing campaign for the historic **site**.

The footage, which can be seen on the Mercury's website, is becoming a common tool in the real **estate** agent's sales arsenal, says Aerial Vision Australia owner Kyle Gardner.

Mr Gardner – the state's first **commercial** drone operator – has three aircraft worth up to \$20,000 each equipped with high-definition film and video cameras.

After starting the **business** six months ago, he says he's working hard to keep up with demand.

"I've been doing mainly real **estate** photography and video work and also been doing documentary filming up in our forests for a Sydney-based film crew for a documentary that's coming out in November." He said he was working on a drone that could stay aloft for an hour and examining ways of providing services such as infrared filming for the agricultural sector.

TIMELINE 1854 Hobart Gas **Company** formed 1857 Gas supply commenced 1978 Hobart town gas supply ends 1987 Several original buildings lost as Davey Street extended. 1993 **Site sold** to developer Robert Hosken, right, and revamped. 2014 Offered for **sale**.

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