

SE News
 HD **China** puts \$1 billion on the table
 BY Errol Smith
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Chinese investment that could exceed \$1 billion is fuelling a major economic boom across the Central Coast and, it seems, there is more come.

In recent months **Chinese** interests have: ■ Announced plans for a \$500m cultural theme **park** complex at Warnervale ■ **Purchased** Magenta Shores at The Entrance ■ **Purchased** Kooindah Resort and Spa at Wyong and announced major expansion plans During the past few days it has also been reported that **Chinese** interests have exchanged contracts for the **purchase** of the multi-million dollar Klumper **site** at The Entrance, which only last year was earmarked for dual-highrise development.

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Additionally, it's widely believed a **Chinese company** has expressed an interest in building a planned new multi-storey carpark in Shore St in the heart of The Entrance.

Another **Chinese** consortium is looking closely at Wyong Council's multi-cultural university proposal on the former country music **site** at Warnervale. The combined value of the investments would exceed a \$1 billion and generate a large number of jobs.

Gosford is also under scrutiny from **China** as a major investment **site**. The Kooindah Resort proposal alone is expected to create more than 200 jobs. New owners, Harman Global Holdings, are planning a modern **hotel**, more housing and a conference centre.

Pending planning approval, the new owners intend to proceed with plans for a suite of developments including more than 100 boutique houses, a 120-room **hotel** and improvements to the existing resort including improved function rooms enabling the shire to attract bigger conferences and events.

Ethan He, chief executive of the **residential** project marketing **company** Harman, says his **company's** vision is in synch with the council's bigger picture for Wyong, addressing the need for niche housing, a marketable tourism identity and major economic investment.

"Kooindah was a logical choice for us as a development because it is in an enviable position to capture the Sydney market, located just off the freeway in an outstandingly beautiful area," Mr He said.

CONSORTIUM MAKES STAGED PAYMENT Details surrounding the planned **Chinese** Theme **Park** near Warnervale airport were revealed last week with a Development Application expected to be lodged within the next few months by Australia-**China** Theme **Park** Pty Ltd. The consortium has so far paid \$70,000 of the \$10 million offer for the council-owned **site**, in accordance with staged payments in the contract. The balance is due by the end of 2015.

POSSIBILITY OF **CHINESE** UNIVERSITY Gosford Council has been in discussion with **Chinese** business interests for several years with the likelihood of **Chinese** investment in the LGA high.

Council chief executive Paul Anderson and mayor Lawrie McKinna visited Shenyang City in December to discuss the possibility of a **Chinese** university somewhere in the Gosford CBD. "The Liaoning University has signed an agreement with the council to look at developing a campus in the CBD," Mr

Anderson said. "The Harbin University in **China** is also looking at the possibility of a campus specialising in **Chinese** medicine and other practices for the CBD, so it is conceivable we could eventually have two **Chinese** university presences." He said there were also Chinese investors looking at development.

RESORT EXPANSION GREAT BOOST Central Coast Tourism chief executive Robyne Abernethy said the proposed expansion of the resort would be a great boost for the Wyong Shire region and support the growth of the local visitor economy.

"The additional room stock and expanded meeting and event facilities will allow the region to target larger conferences and support the attraction of major regional events," Ms Abernethy said.

Community College responds with Mandarin classes Responding to renewed enthusiasm to the coast's involvement with **China**, especially tourism, Central Coast Community College is offering Mandarin classes.

Even Wyong councillors are being enticed to undertake the course with the council prepared to meet reasonable expenses. However, councillors don't seem too enthused with most saying they're not interested.

Councillors Lynne Webster, Bob Graham, Luke Nayna, Ken Greenwald and Lisa Matthews said they would not be taking up the council's offer to attend while Cr Adam Troy said he would not be at this time.

Mayor Doug Eaton, who only returned from a visit to **China** on Monday, said he was already undertaking **Chinese** language courses.

None of the other councillors responded to Express/Advocate inquiries. Community College tutor Xuehuang (Willa) Chen, who has lived in Australia for 12 years, is looking forward to helping. She said learning **Chinese** would be especially beneficial to the people involved with the Warnervale Theme **Park**.

"The **Chinese** culture is very much intertwined with the language, and it is important to understand the different ways of addressing people in **Chinese** society," she said. **Chinese** Mandarin for Beginners will be held at the college in Term 4. Inquiries: 4348 4300 or cccc.nsw.edu.au

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