



POLITICAL ALERT

HD Airport Could Be Ray Of Sunshine For Investors**WC** 307 words**PD** 4 August 2016**SN** Trans Tasman Political Alert**SC** TMRTPL**LA** English**CY** (c) 2016 The Main Report Publications Ltd**LP**

A top line up of Australian infrastructure investors is thought to be lining up for the opportunity to buy Sunshine Coast airport. The airport is expected to fetch at least \$500m - among those interested is IFM, which may bid with Palisade. The two companies jointly own Darwin Airport through the Airport Development Group, and are likely to vie for Sunshine Coast through the same entity.

Queensland Airports Group is working with Grant Samuel on its attempts to buy the asset, while AMP Capital, which is also an airport investor, is said to be a contender along with Colonial First State and the Queensland Investment Corporation. The Northern Queensland Airports Group is also expected to be in the mix. It owns Cairns Airport and is controlled by a consortium which includes ILF Cairns Mackay Investment, The Private Capital Group's TIF, Perron Investments, Auckland International Airport and Mackay Airport.

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A number of prospective investors are looking to firm up details of exactly what will be for sale before lodging any bid. The airport, currently owned by the local council, is considering building an additional runway, which will cost \$374m to develop. It operates 24 hours and handles about 87,000 aircraft movements and up to a million passengers annually. The sale comes after Port Hedland Airport was sold last year to AMP and ICG. Annual ebitda is about \$10m.

Meanwhile, as China Huadian remains the front runner to buy the bulk of TPG Capital's \$3bn-plus Alinta Energy, the group is also expected to be looking at Origin Energy's Stockyard Hill wind farm project when it comes up for sale. The sale has faced delays due to changes to a wind mill development up for grabs. It consists of 157 approved wind turbines about 35km west of Ballarat.

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