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HD Meriton eyes development - EXCLUSIVE -

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HARRY Triguboff's Meriton Apartments is eyeing off a key North Sydney development property as the billionaire looks to consolidate his position in Sydney's northern suburbs.

Meriton is leading the pack to buy the residential development site, which has approval for an 18-level mixed use building, from industrial property investment group Ford Land Company.

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It is understood that Meriton has tendered at a price of more than \$50 million but the apartment developer declined to comment yesterday.

The **site** has capacity for 190 apartments and is being **sold** through Knight Frank's Andrew Drury, Peter Krieg, Brett Burridge and Dominic Ong. The agency declined to comment.

The site, at 225-235 Pacific Highway and 22 Angelo Street, has approval to be turned into an apartment tower with a retail component.

The vendor won council approval for a design by Spence Pearson Architects.

This includes six three-bedroom apartments, along with 72 two-bedroom units, 97 one-bedroom units and 15 studio apartments.

The **site** will be ready for construction in July, allowing a buyer to capitalise on Sydney's hot **residential** market.

The move follows Meriton's **purchase** of a **site** in Sydney's Zetland for \$47m, as revealed in The Australian last week.

North Sydney has been targeted by local and international **apartment** developers this year.

In the most prominent deal, **property** billionaire Bob Ell cashed in on the **Chinese** investment boom by selling an office tower in Milsons Point on Sydney Harbour for about \$80m to mainland developer Bridgehill via CBRE.

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