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## Australia

\* Lend Lease Corp. Ltd. is in talks with Richard Gu's AXF Group to form a partnership to build a more than A\$1 billion commercial, apartment and hotel project on Sydney's Circular Quay, The Australian reported Aug. 21.

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The companies are in discussions with the city of Sydney about their development plans and are considering submitting a single master plan.

- \* Lend Lease's APPF Commercial fund is close to acquiring a A\$170 million portfolio of four assets in Adelaide from German real estate fund SachsenFonds, The Australian Financial Review reported Aug. 21
- \* In Brisbane, Lend Lease's Australian Prime <mark>Property</mark> Fund is paying A\$15.6 million to acquire Hills Ltd.'s headquarters at 70 Fulcrum St., the AFR reported Aug. 21.

Hills Ltd. plans to lease back the 17,455-square-meter industrial facility until January 2016.

\* Stockland and the Future Fund are seeking an estimated A\$600 million by divesting the Waterfront Place office tower in Brisbane, The Sydney Morning Herald reported Aug. 20.

It is said to be the "biggest office asset for sale in the past year," the publication noted. The 60,000-square-meter tower houses Commonwealth parliamentary offices.

\* Lend Lease, Mirvac Group, Frasers Property Australia, Cbus Property and Grocon are the finalists to build the A\$1 billion Central Barangaroo urban renewal precinct on Sydney Harbour, the AFR reported Aug. 20.

The companies will now take part in a formal development bid process. They will have the option to submit bids that combine two or more parcels of land over two hectares of the 5-hectare **site**.

Construction at Central Barangaroo should kick off in mid-2016 and wrap up in 2021, according to the report.

\* Hotel Property Investments said Aug. 18 that it exchanged contracts to buy Hotel HQ in the Brisbane suburb of Underwood, for A\$18.1 million. The amount reflects a yield on net income of 7.23%.

Hotel HQ is a freehold hotel property leased to the Coles Group. The company said it will fund the acquisition from available capacity in its loan facility. Settlement is slated to occur Sept. 15.

\* Charter Hall Group said Aug. 18 that it divested a 50% stake in the A\$127 million Bunnings Partnership 2 portfolio to an institutional investor.

The portfolio features about 50% of metropolitan located stores in the Perth suburb of Armadale and the **Gold** Coast suburb of Burleigh Heads, with regionally located Bunnings stores at Gympie and Mackay in Queensland. All properties are leased to Bunnings on new 12-year leases and provide average 3% per-annum rental increases.

\* Abacus Property Group said Aug. 18 that it and global investment firm KKR agreed to acquire a 70% stake in towers 2, 3 and 4 of the World Trade Centre in Melbourne, for A\$120.4 million. The vendor, Asset 1 WTC, will retain a 30% co-ownership interest. The deal represents an initial yield of 9.3% per annum.

Under the agreement, KKR will fund 75% of the equity, and Abacus will fund the remaining 25%. Abacus will also provide local property, asset and development management services to WTC.

Towers 2, 3 and 4 offer a total of nearly 50,000 square meters of net lettable area comprising about 43,500 square meters of office space and 4,600 square meters of retail space, including a retail arcade.

Abacus noted that more than 50% of the office component at the approximately 90%-leased **property** is occupied by the State Government of Victoria.

## Japan

- \* Japan Hotel REIT Investment Corp. said Aug. 20 that it decided to acquire two hotel properties, namely Mercure Hotel Sapporo and Mercure Hotel Okinawa Naha, for ¥6.00 billion and ¥3.00 billion, respectively.
- \* Japan Residential Investment Co. Ltd. said Aug. 18 that it signed an agreement to sell Branche Kanamecho IV, a 20-unit apartment building in Tokyo, for ¥550 million, excluding taxes and sales costs. The price represents a 34.1% premium over the asset's latest valuation of ¥410 million.

The **sale** is a part of the **company**'s strategy to off-load select noncore assets and reallocate proceeds to acquire high-quality assets with greater prospects for income and capital growth.

## **Hong Kong**

\* Link Real <mark>Estate</mark> Investment Trust said Aug. 18 that it agreed to <mark>buy</mark> the Lions Rise Mall in Kowloon, Hong Kong, from Kerry Properties Ltd. for HK\$1.38 billion.

The 126,319-square-foot mall was 84% let with 36 tenancies at the end of July.

Link REIT will fund the **acquisition** with its own cash resources and/or existing debt facilities. The **acquisition** is not expected to have any material impact on its financial position.

Completion of the acquisition is expected to take place Sept. 18.

\* Henderson Land Development Co. Ltd. said Aug. 15 that it will not proceed with the proposed sale of the Prince Edward East property and subscription of units in Sunlight REIT. The company said it received less than 50% votes in favor of the proposed transactions.

Some links may require a subscription.

- co hillin: Hills Limited | Ilc: Lend Lease Group
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