THE STANDARD

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HD INDEPENDENT dairy processor United Dairy Power (UDP)

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INDEPENDENT dairy processor United Dairy Power (UDP) is about to be sold or partially sold.

Rumours of an impending sale have circulated for some time, with a **Chinese company** said to be interested.

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Founder and chief executive Tony Esposito could not be contacted yesterday, but he had earlier told Fairfax that a sale or partial sale was imminent.

Mr Esposito said he has had "interest from everywhere" including Australia, New Zealand and **China**, but he would not name the interested parties, saying only that a deal may be announced in days or weeks.

UDP has processing facilities at Jervois and Murray Bridge in South Australia and Poowong and Shepparton in Victoria.

It has about 50 suppliers in the south-west.

UDP is wholly owned by Mr Esposito who founded the **company** in 1999, initially as a **milk** broker before buying established processing facilities.

Today it processes about 300 million litres from its own suppliers plus additional volume bought from rivals.

It makes cheeses, including the Caboolture **brand**, as well as fresh **milk** and a variety of other products for the domestic market.

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