

SE News
HD **Buyers race to Tinkler auction**
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BUDDS Beach billionaire Bob Ell is among the cashed-up bidders expected to compete for Nathan Tinkler's Patinack Farm assets when they go under the hammer tomorrow.

Until now, Mr Ell's interest in horses has been limited to the ponies his daughters ride.

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But racing industry sources have revealed the Leda Holdings founder was among a select **group** who made the trek to Wonglepong, near Canungra, in the lead-up to auction day.

Several potential buyers from overseas plus two other leading Queensland **property** figures have also been to Patinack Farm for a look.

Fellow billionaire Gerry Harvey paid a visit as well, but industry insiders indicated his interest was more keenly focused on the selling of Mr Tinkler's assets than buying them.

Mr Harvey has consistently refused to detail exactly what Mr Tinkler owes him, but early this month he confirmed the \$33.9 million netted from the Magic Millions Patinack Farm Dispersal **Sale** would go a long way towards settling the debt.

Mr Tinkler paid \$21.05 million for the Patinack properties four years ago and then sank \$4 million into Wadham **Park** and \$3 million into Benobble.

Yesterday, LJ Hooker Surfers Paradise **commercial** sales executive Cameron McPhie confirmed bidders from New Zealand, **Hong Kong**, the US and UAE were among the 12 parties registered for the on-**site** auction.

Rumours emerged at the end of the Patinack horse **sale** that a deal was about to be done with the US's largest thoroughbred racing empire, Spendthrift Farm, for the Patinack **property** assets.

But Mr McPhie said the level of interest shown in the past three weeks had convinced Mr Tinkler it would be worth his while going ahead with the auction.

"You don't do a deal before auction day with one party when you have this level of inquiry," he said.

"There is a high chance you will do better under the hammer." Local racing identities Hoss and Gillian Heinrich also confirmed that they had been out to Patinack in the lead-up to the auction.

Mr Heinrich said yesterday he was still unsure if he would put in a bid for any of the properties, which he feared would be hard to sell. The farm holding looks likely to be auctioned off as four separate lots: Wadham **Park** (33.64ha); the fully equipped Elysian Fields training facility (56.97ha); and Saravale (73.26ha) and Benobble (283.40ha), the breeding and adjustment facility.

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