THE AUSTRALIAN *

SE **Business**

Towers attract offshore players to Sydney CBD HD

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363 words WC

8 February 2016 PΠ

The Australian SN **AUSTLN**

Australian ED

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English LA

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Sites: Chinese developers and local players with offshore backing are tipped to chase the next round of towers being offered in Sydney's central business district and inner city with over \$200 million of property in play.

The largest offer is in Sussex Street, where a 19-level office tower overlooking Darling Harbour has been listed for sale by Deutsche Asset Management.

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The tower, which financial services group ING shifts out of next year, is likely to be converted into a residential development, and could sell for over \$130m.

CBRE's Richard Butler, Josh Cullen, Mark Hansen and Sharon Yang are selling the 140 Sussex Street property, which also includes a historic warehouse occupied by Kingsley's Steakhouse alongside the 11,742sq m A-grade office tower.

"We expect sophisticated developers, onshore and offshore, private and publicly listed, to show strong interest in the site, with a view to unlock its potential with a mixed use or residential development," Mr Butler said.

The **site** can accommodate a top-class development with up to 208 apartments over 35 levels. AMP Capital's recent sale of 71 Macquarie Street, at Circular Quay, to Chinese group Macrolink and local developer Landream for \$158.5m has set a steep benchmark.

Chinese groups are now seeking to develop the sites they have acquired over the past year.

In Sydney's inner city suburb of Rosebery, private Chinese developer Maville has lodged plans for a \$93m apartment project on a site it bought last year for \$48m.

The industrial site at 12-24 Rothschild Avenue is to be transformed into about 260 high-end apartments after being sold by Sussman & Company in a deal last year brokered by Michael Crombie and James Bellew of Colliers International. Maville is best known for its plans to convert a 333 Kent St site into a 24-storey residential tower with serviced apartments. The company also picked up last year an industrial building at 219 Botany Road, Waterloo, in a \$29.5m deal brokered by Brian McInally and Trent Gallagher of Colliers International, and has also been identified for a residential play.

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AN Document AUSTLN0020160207ec280002r

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