

# Port Hedland thinks big on homes, hotels



Revamp: Redevelopment work at South Hedland, part of a push for more housing and commercial space.

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Port Hedland is already home to the biggest bulk export port in the world and an expansion plan due in 2018 will boost the port's capabilities and the urgent need for homes and hotel accommodation in the North West town.

The State Government wants Port Hedland and nearby South Hedland to be home to 50,000 people under its Pilbara Cities scheme, which aims to establish more permanent populations in key remote towns and is fast-tracking land releases for the coastal towns, including sites for mixed-use high rise and an ocean-front hotel.

In its latest release, Government land agency LandCorp will sell the waterfront site of the former Port Hedland hospital to a developer to build a multi-level landmark hotel that may also

include retail and commercial space.

The 3.16ha hospital site has uninterrupted views over the proposed Spoilbank Marina and will be sold via an expressions-of-interest campaign.

It will be next to a \$125 million hotel and residential project on Sutherland Street announced recently by Mirvac.

"We are looking to create a distinctive and attractive development of high quality to take advantage of this sought after coastal site," Lands Minister Brendon Grylls said.

In South Hedland, LandCorp is calling for expressions of interest for the sale of four big lots in the town centre that will create around 130 homes.

Developers can submit for one or all of the lots, which total 2.53ha and can support a mix of commercial, office, retail, medi-

cal and cafe space on the ground floor with residential space on the upper floors.

"We want to create distinctive and attractive, multi-storey developments that reflect the new future of South Hedland," Mr Grylls said.

He said it was essential the town's infrastructure and economy be developed in parallel to the planned growth of the Port Hedland port and associated resource projects.

"Port Hedland port is already the largest bulk export port in the world and plans are under way to expand its capabilities by 600 per cent by 2013," Mr Grylls said.

"These land releases will help attract private sector investment to establish a more robust local economy featuring an array of retail and commercial businesses all integral to developing a modern, well appointed city."