

Wee Hur teams up with Intergen for Sydney student accommodation project

BEN WILMOT THE AUSTRALIAN 11:28AM June 5, 2018



Artist's impression of Wee Hur's planned student accommodation project in Sydney's Redfern.

Sydney services company Intergen Property Group and Singapore group Wee Hur have forged deeper into the student accommodation business in Australia.

The pair have snapped up a block of 32 units as a redevelopment play in Gibbons Street in the inner Sydney suburb of Redfern for \$52 million.

The 1,365 sqm site will be developed into student accommodation with more than 500 beds, which are expected to be in high demand as the site is near the University of Sydney and University of Technology Sydney.

Singapore-listed Wee Hur appointed Intergen as its investment manager in February, with a mandate to invest \$700m in development sites for its Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) trust.

Intergen facilitated the Wee Hur acquisition, which was the group's first in Sydney. The city remains Australia's most sought-after location for student accommodation in terms of supply and demand fundamentals and the pair are looking for more Sydney sites.

The deal was Intergen's second acquisition for the Wee Hur trust. The first was 183-189 A'Beckett Street in Melbourne for \$35m which settled in March.

Wee Hur has submitted plans to develop the 1,038 sqm site into a complex with 900 beds.

The company owns two other student sites in Australia — ParkCentral in Buranda, Brisbane, which has 1,578-beds due for completion this year, and Gray Street, Adelaide, a 772-bed facility to be finished next year.

The Wee Hur trust is aiming to own 5,000 beds in major cities of Australia. Under the trust, about 3,765 beds are currently in the pipeline across existing sites in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

The group will also seek more sites in Melbourne and Perth.

The sale by the 32 residents in the strata-titled block at 13-23 Gibbons Street was brokered Stuart Cox, Neil Cooke and Jonathon Broome of Savills Australia, who were appointed by April Group.

The zoning allows for an 18-storey mixed-use development.