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Revival of the State Theatre and Gowings Buildings

Two of Sydney's most iconic buildings will be reborn with the State Theatre and Gowings Buildings Revival Project by Amalgamated Holdings Limited (AHL) transforming the upper floors into a luxury boutique hotel.

AHL has lodged a Development Application with the City of Sydney to breathe new life into the buildings. The \$50-million design project will be planned around original layouts and historic features.

AHL Managing Director David Seargeant said the State Theatre and Gowings Buildings have a rich history that has helped define the character of the Sydney CBD since 1929.

"AHL is celebrating its 100th year in 2010 and as custodian of these two iconic sites we are proud to continue the tradition of preserving the past and investing in the future of the historic heart of Sydney," Mr Seargeant said.

"This project is a revival of the interiors of the upper floors of the State Theatre and Gowings Buildings, with the only changes to the exterior being the reinstatement of historic features such as statues and stonework and some façade conservation work.

"This is an exciting opportunity to recapture some of the romance of the buildings while at the same time addressing the current shortage of hotel room stock in Sydney, boosting employment and tourism infrastructure."

Mr Seargeant said the new hotel would be the launch hotel for AHL's newly-announced QT Hotel brand.

"This will be one of the first new hotels in Sydney since 2000 and it will offer a luxury boutique hotel experience with 196 designer guest rooms, an exciting, edgy restaurant and bar and luxurious day spa."

Mr Seargeant said AHL has a long relationship with both sites.

"As the parent company of Greater Union Theatres we are the long term occupier and owner of the State Theatre we were delighted to be able to purchase the Gowings site in 2006.

"Sydneyiders have a great attachment to these buildings, as we do, and we will be maintaining the historic street level activities of theatre and retail. We are looking forward to restoring these iconic buildings to their former glory and creating a new, exciting hotel in the heart of the city."

The Development Application is currently on public exhibition until Thursday 8 April 2010 and, if approved, the refurbishments will commence in early 2011 with completion in 2012.

For further information visit www.ahl.com.au or www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Media Contact: Allison Bone 0434 568 421

AMALGAMATED HOLDINGS LIMITED

ACN 000 005 103 State Theatre Building 49 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000 GPO Box 1609 Sydney NSW 2001 Australia Telephone 612 9373 6600

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