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## Still no winner in one-horse race

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The future of a \$2 billion Sydney CBD development is up in the air as the Baird government continues to mull plans for Central Barangaroo seven months after it notified under-bidders they had lost out on the blockbuster tender.

Premier Mike Baird and the Barangaroo Delivery Authority yesterday were unable to confirm whether development rights for Central Barangaroo had been awarded to a consortium that includes Grocon, Chinese developer Aqualand and Westfield shopping centre-owner Scentre.

The consortium led by Grocon is the only bidder left in the race after government planners notified competitors Lendlease and Mirvac in late May they had been unsuccessful in their bids for the 5.2ha waterfront site.

Development executives and local planners have been left scratching their heads in the seven months since, with the BDA and the government still to make an official announcement on the billion-dollar slab.

Urban Taskforce chief executive Chris Johnson told *The Australian*: "It does seem to be taking



An artist's impression of Central Barangaroo

a very long time, and for no real reason, particularly when there's an understanding throughout the industry that a clear decision has been made.

"Keeping up momentum with the development at the site would have been a lot better than developing it in a piecemeal approach. Workers have moved in (to Barangaroo South) only to find there'll be a hole in the ground next door for a long time."

Mr Baird's office would not comment on the tender process, which has stretched across more than 2½ years because original bids had to be redone after a decision was made to add a metro railway station into the plans. Bid

costs are thought to have reached \$10 million for some parties.

As for the BDA, "It's an ongoing process and an announcement will be made when that process is complete," its spokesman said yesterday.

Billed as the public heart of Barangaroo, Central Barangaroo is one of four development zones along the city's western waterfront and combines apartments, a shopping centre and commercial space to complete the sweep from Barangaroo Reserve in the north to the Lendlease-developed hub at Barangaroo South.

Lendlease and Mirvac have been unable to comment publicly on the tender process.

follow-up surgery if necessary. Dr X does it for free."

Unlike many of the gender dysphoria cases that come before the Family Court, Lincoln has not been living as a boy since he was a small child.

The court heard that it was only in September 2014, when Lincoln was 13, that he told his mother that he felt he had been born in the wrong body. He had undertaken research on the internet and thought he had gender dysphoria.

In the previous year, he had "started to refuse to wear more feminine clothing" and "would insist on getting shorter hairstyles. He also started to self-harm".

Lincoln saw a psychiatrist about his condition last year. He was prescribed antidepressants to help him sleep, and puberty blockers.

The usual process for children diagnosed with gender dysphoria is to start hormonal treatment to suppress puberty at about age 13, and for parents to then seek the court's permission for stage-two treatment — where a child is given hormones of the opposite gender — from about the age of 16.

Genital surgery is generally not contemplated until teenagers have reached 18.

Judge William Johnston said Lincoln was competent to consent to the treatment.