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Group has eye on big project

DEVELOPMENT conglomerate, the Cardno group of companies which has been heavily involved in projects at Salt and Casuarina is pushing for a major role in about a billion dollars worth of contracts if the Gold Coast is awarded the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

But the company's regional manager Mark Ricketts fears there is a real risk that the Queensland Government will push contracts towards Brisbane-based companies

"There is the risk the lion's share of design and construction contracts associated with both the bid and the Games themselves - if the Gold Coast is successful - will be awarded to Brisbane-based companies," he said.

His comments were aimed at former Olympian Mark Stockwell who is heading the games bid and is to deliver an address on infrastructure benefits of the games when he speaks to a conference of developers tomorrow. About 300 business people are expected to attend the Sustainable Development Gold Coast Inc's annual conference at Southport Sharks auditorium.