



Bond University . . . 1,670 students this year; 2,500 would be better.

Photograph by ROBERT ROUGH

Bond Uni ownership dispute almost over

The long-disputed ownership structure of the Gold Coast-based Bond University is close to a resolution, with listed property developer Delfin and the University of Queensland expected to emerge as victors.

Under the deal, estimated to be worth more than \$100 million, Delfin and the University of Queensland will buy about 260 hectares from the current owners, the Long-Term

Credit Bank of Japan, and Bond will buy the 50 hectares of campus buildings.

Full details of the arrangement are expected to be released this week.

According to Mr John Stephens, director of admissions at Bond, the university has an arrangement with a "leading Australian-based financial institution" for the funds needed to secure its third of the deal.

Any deal would see the end to the long-running ownership tussle which gained momentum in 1993 when the university was placed into the hands of the Japanese-based receivers following the collapse of joint venture owner EIE Corp.

The University of Queensland in 1995 secured a contract, valued at \$107 million, for the acquisition of the campus and student residential area and the

260 ha of adjoining bushland.

Bond University had the contract stalled amid concern the Government-run university would intrude on the curriculum and atmosphere of the privately run campus. Bond also argued it had a 99-year tenure.

Under the new deal, the UQ and Delfin will develop the adjoining land as residential accommodation for students, teachers and others.